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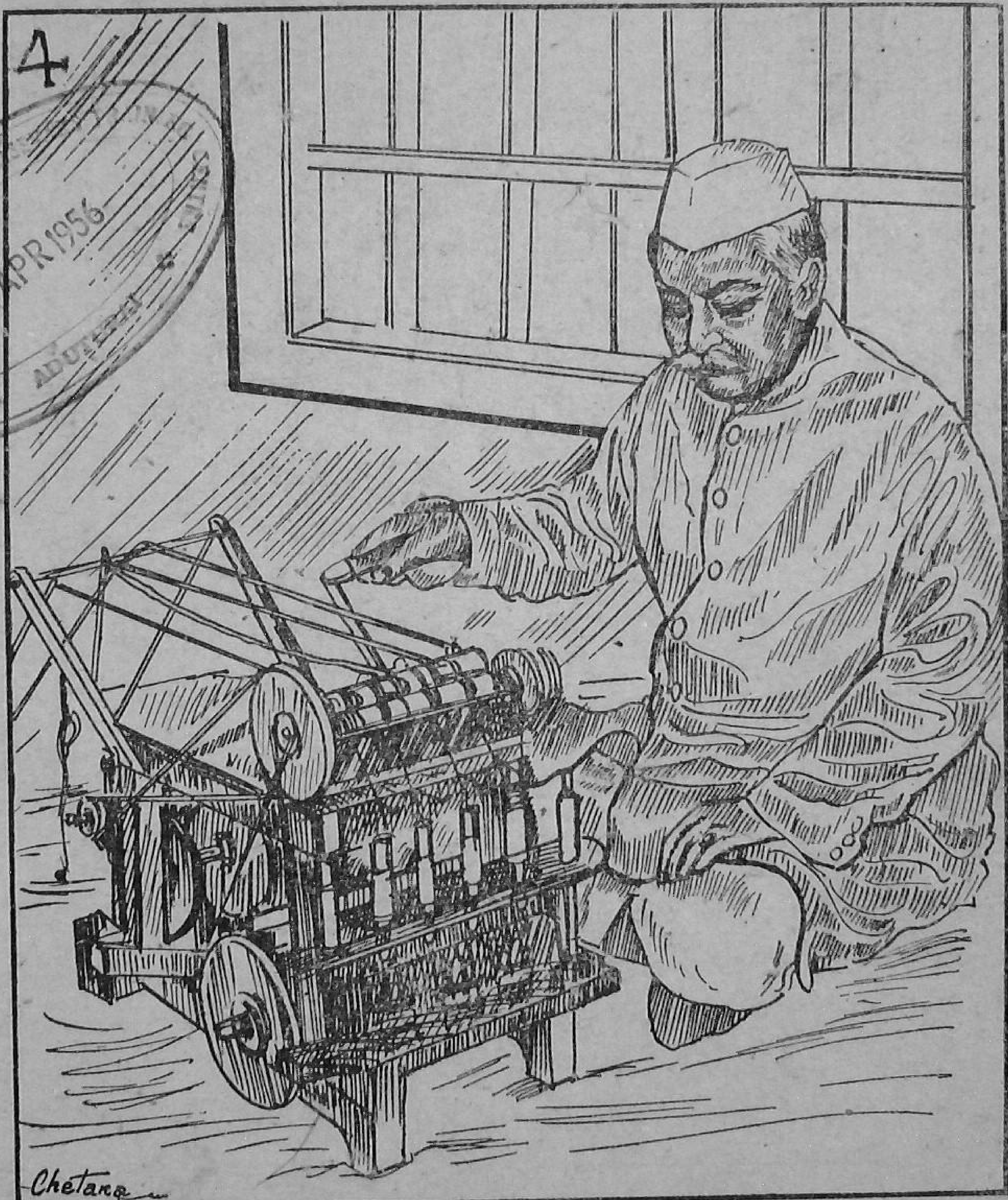

ALL-INDIA KHADI & VILLAGE INDUSTRIES BOARD.
(MINISTRY OF PRODUCTION)
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA BUILDINGS, QUEENS ROAD - BOMBAY-1.

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(From the Resolution of the Government of India).

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P. T. O.

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OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL, GRAMSEVAKS TRAINING CENTRE, ADUTURAI
24 APR 1956

KHADI–GRAMODYOG

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THE HANDLOOM INDUSTRY

The steps taken by the Government of India in the wake of the crisis that overtook the handloom industry in the country three years ago, have had some steadying effect on it. The formation of the Handloom Board, reservation of certain types of cloth to the handloom industry, financial and other aids and technical guidance offered to the handloom weavers in the country, have produced conditions favourable for its rehabilitation and progress. Periodical observances of Handloom Weeks act as incentives to the producers of handloom fabrics and as a reminder to the people of their duty to a section of their countrymen who depend on their patronage for the development of their art and crafts. On such occasions it is usual to view the progress made and spotlight the problems confronting it.

The Minister for Commerce and Industry, therefore, did well to focus public attention on the needs of the industry and the type of assistance offered to it by the Government. He pointed out that, due to the efforts of the Government, handloom production had gone up to 1450 million yards in 1955. The performance, however, is below expectations when it is remembered that the Planning Commission fixed a target of 1,700 million yards for the industry in the First Five Year Plan. Where operative conditions have been favourable, marketing conditions have shown considerable improvement. For instance, in Andhra, Madras, Hyderabad and Uttar Pradesh sales through apex co-operative societies have gone up to 29.3 million yards in July–September 1955 as against 13.3 million yards during the same period

in 1954.

Fantastic

Inaugurating the recent Handloom Week, the Commerce Minister expressed the view that the existing handloom should be converted into powerlooms in the next ten or fifteen years. This is a point of view with which we do not agree. Nor will the community of handloom weavers accept it. The suggestion, we presume, has been made without adequate consideration being given to it. If, however, the proposal is mooted seriously, then it is time that the consequences that will flow from such action are discussed with candour. There are at present 20 lakhs of working handlooms in the country with a productive capacity of 120 to 160 lakhs yards a day. A powerloom, it is computed, is capable of producing four times the production of a handloom. On this assumption, the daily cloth production will be of the order of 480 to 640 lakhs yards a day, or, 14,400 million to 19,200 million yards of cloth a year of 300 days and 8 hours a day. If all the handlooms are converted into powerlooms, yarn requirement will be of the order of 3,200 to 4,267 million lbs. per year. To produce this quantity of yarn, the cotton supplies will have to be trebled while mill spindlage also will have to be trebled and even quadrupled. Taking the present mill spindleage to be 11 millions, steps will be necessary to instal some 30 to 40 millions more spindles. Besides, power supply and provision of other operative conditions raise other problems. Thus the costs involved in the conversion of 20 lakhs of handlooms into powerlooms, even, of the domestic variety, will assume astronomical proportions and will be far beyond our national resources. Not only that, the problem of unemployment will get acuter and acuter. The colossal production of cloth in the country will have to race for markets abroad. The export market is already shrinking and traditional foreign buyer countries are rapidly developing their own industries. As time advances, there will be very little of the external market left. At the end of it all, where will we be ? The whole idea is unrealistic.

Weaver And Wages

While one would agree that a weaver should be enabled to augment his earnings, care should also be taken that the method by which he is enabled to do so does not strike at the root of the means of livelihood of large numbers of others. Whether handlooms should be converted into powerlooms or not is purely an academic question at present. If we are anxious to see that the handloom weaver earns more than what he does today, the right step, and the one that should be taken immediately, is to provide for him appropriate operative conditions. Side by side with the conversion of throw-shuttle looms into fly-shuttle looms and the supply to the weavers of such technical aids as the pick-up motion attachments or warping frames, they should also be assured of adequate supplies of yarn which will keep their looms fully engaged. The present low level of the

weaver's earnings is not due to the "primitive" techniques employed in hand-weaving. It is due to the lack of adequate supply of yarn.

The Handloom Board, referring to this aspect, says: "At the rate of 4½ yards of cloth per lb. of yarn, production of 3,000 million yards of cloth will require 1,67,000 bales of yarn or an average monthly supply of 1,39,000 bales. The present rate of supply of yarn for the handlooms is only about 64,000 bales per month . . . . . In other words, the current supply of yarn for handlooms will have to be more than double. The essential pre-requisite to carrying out the Board's plan, therefore, is the enhancement of yarn supplies . . . . The position today is that all the handlooms in the country are not active. . . . . Although about 8.7 lakhs of handlooms are nominally under the cooperative fold, the cooperative societies are unable to provide their weaver-members with continuous work all the year round. If the co-operative endeavour is to succeed, it has to be ensured that the societies are in a position to give work to their members throughout the year, and the quantum of work given per day should be such as would enable the members to earn a minimum wage. . . . ." Such are the stark facts. In the face of these facts all talk about conversion of handlooms with a view to enable the weaver to double and treble his earnings is unhelpful. Any such action will add to the pangs and pains of hunger of those who struggle for a mere existence.

Give Them Yarn

The emphasis of the Handloom Board, hence, has been on the development of the industry on a cooperative basis so that the weavers could more easily be provided with such operative facilities as would conduce to their betterment. It is, therefore, only reasonable to expect that at least those handlooms which are in the cooperative fold would get complete work. The fact, however, is as revealed by the Handloom Board itself, that even those in the cooperative fold are not supplied with adequate yarn to keep themselves fully employed. To put it differently, the handloom weaver's earning can be doubled and even trebled provided he is enable to have full employment by giving to him the raw material and other operational facilities he wants. This will be clear when it is realised that the handloom industry in the country hardly produces 33 per cent of its capacity today.

It is in this context that the All India Khadi and Village Industries Board has formulated its plan of yarn production by the wide-spread introduction of Ambar Charkhas in the country. The idea is to produce all the additional requirements of yarn to place all the existing handlooms on a full capacity production basis. The Khadi Board's programme makes it possible for the weaver family to be self-sufficient in its yarn requirements. The Ambar Charkha can be used as a home unit of yarn production as well on a wider producers' cooperative basis. Being installed in the rural areas, the accessibility

of the weaver to sources of yarn production becomes easy. These sources are either in his own vicinity or in his immediate neighbourhood. Such a development of handspinning and handweaving brings to the handloom industry present stability and prospect of steady and certain development.

No Piece-Meal Remedy

The Union Minister has referred to the effect of reserving certain types of cloth production to the handloom industry and has found that it has not worked to the advantage of the industry. The reason is that such reservation was a piece-meal attempt to help the handloom industry to tide over the difficulty at crucial stage of the crisis. Experience must show that mere reservations of certain types of cloth alone do not provide permanent solutions to the malaise in which the industry finds itself today. Cloth production should be so conditioned as to accord with regional preferences and tastes and production programmes should be so organised and distributed as to meet the regional demands of types, designs and varieties. If a proper study of regional preferences and consumption types is made, it will be found that the handloom industry is ideally suited to produce a large part of such cloth and satisfy the regional requirements. It is in this direction that attention should more and more be directed and programmes formulated and executed. In the orientations of production patterns and programmes, the Ambar Charkha, again, can play a decisive role.

Programmes for piecemeal conversion of handlooms into powerlooms will be suicidal, for, as Shri Somappa says, "powerlooms are more dangerous to handlooms than even the organised mill weaving industry. While being free from the handicaps and financial strain of mill industry, the powerlooms derive the full benefits of the cottage industry. Having the facility of location in the rural areas, they produce the very same varieties that are being produced on the handlooms and thus compete with them in their very markets. The fact the powerloom is a great enemy to the handloom has been admitted by the Fact Finding Committee."

PROGRESS FOR ALL

There is a very significant passage in the Budget Speech of the Finance Minister which should provide the touch-stone by which all efforts at planning in our country should be tested. The problem before us, according to Shri C. D. Deshmukh, "is not merely one of raising the statistical average of per capita income which could easily be a will o' the wisp; it is one of raising the lowest incomes and of opening out to the younger generation avenues of growth and advancement that will bring out the best in them". Our per capita income is Rs. 284; but that of the agricultural labourer is only Rs. 104. Those in the latter category constitute 12.6 per cent of the total population. Their average income is low, first, because they have no work to do for nearly five months of the year

and, secondly because the level of their wages, even at the maximum, is, approximately, a third of the average wage of an industrial worker, whose annual earnings come to Rs. 1109.

Those with such earnings numbered in all less than 25 lakhs persons as against 450 lakhs of cultivating labourers and their dependents. If large-scale industries could provide during the period of the next Five Year Plan employment for any appreciable number of these persons, there would be some justification for the investment of national resources for the development of such industries. But it is significant that while between 1950 and 1953 production in diverse fields increased considerably, the average daily number employed in factories actually went down from 25.04 lakhs in 1950 to 24.03 in 1953. Along with minerals, the factory industries are expected to provide additional employment during the next five years for 8 lakhs of persons with an outlay of Rs. 691 crores in the public sector and about Rs. 400 crores in the private sector.

Out of a total of 150 lakhs persons engaged in production other than cultivation, the number engaged in factories and mines is approximately 30 lakhs. The remainder, that is 120 lakhs nearly are persons engaged in small-scale industries, a figure which is almost four times that of those employed in mines and large scale industries. But the per capita earning for the year is low, because, like the self-employed person engaged in agriculture and the agricultural labourer, the self-employed person engaged in small industries as also the wage earner in such enterprises have no work to do for a fairly large part of the year. Their contribution to the national income and their scale of earnings will rise only when they get sufficient work to do in their traditional occupations. The investigations conducted by the Textile Inquiry Committee disclosed that out of an estimated total of 20 lakhs handlooms in the country only 12.5 lakhs are operated for 200 days or more. That Committee confined its attention to the improvement of the conditions of those engaged at these looms, ignoring the others who had no occupation to follow except this industry, but who had not enough work through-out the year such as could bring them anything like a living wage. That approach, judged by the test that the Finance Minister has prescribed, was altogether wrong. As the Planning Commission has pointed out in the Draft Outline of the Second Five Year Plan, it is incumbent on the Planning authorities so to plan as to avoid technological unemployment affecting traditional industries.

This rules out all proposals which, in the present state of our economy, aim at providing a given quantum of consumers goods, now turned out wholly or partially by hand and household industries by mechanised industries. The programme of converting over a five year period a certain number of handlooms - to be precise 200,000—into power looms, has hence to be ruled out,

because its effect will be to reduce the availability of employment for a few lakhs of handloom weavers if not to throw them out of employment altogether.

Organised labour in the textile mills resists, and that too successfully, any attempts at rationalisation of the processes of production if they involve the displacement of labour, it may be even a few hundreds in some or a few thousands in other centres. Unfortunately, the handloom weaving community is not organised enough to offer similar resistance. Otherwise, it is difficult to conceive of serious consideration being given to any proposal which at the best may lead to an increase in the earnings of a few at the cost of the entire loss of earnings by a large number for whom alternative channels of employment are, in the circumstances in which we are placed just not available.

In fact, our search should be for forms of industrial development which will provide scope for employment for large numbers so as to diversify our economy and to reduce the pressure of population on the land. The result of any attempt in the context of our employment situation to introduce technological improvements that involve the displacement of human labour in order to raise the level of earnings for a few favoured ones, would be altogether unfortunate.

Very often in connection with the future pattern of our industries we hear of the idle installed capacity of certain of our large-scale industries. Production may be below the level of the rated capacity for various reasons, but, even if the full capacity is utilised, the employment potential, judging by past experience, is strictly limited. However, when industrialists seek support for their cause, they have no concern for the huge idle capacity of the traditional cottage industries where idleness of the plant means starvation or semi-starvation for those manning the plant.

It is not a sound economic system where it is ordained that a few get more and more, while their productive effort results in the loss of the livelihood of the many. Thereby we aggravate disparities of the income and do not reduce them. Distributive justice demands regulation in the interest of the many. This, as is observed in the Draft Outline, is however, not to suggest a freezing of existing techniques. It only means that the transition from one stage to another stage of technological progress has to be orderly and well regulated and that suitable conditions have to be created for those already in employment to be convinced about the suitability of the new techniques and then be enabled to equip themselves to adopt these.

MUSINGS OF THE MONTH

(By: THE EDITOR)

The Ides of March are fast running out. The time for the assessment of the productive capacity and technical potentialities of the Ambar Charkha is close at hand. Field investigations and experiments carried out in response to the recommendation of the Karve Committee are in full swing and before the Month of April is out the necessary data will have been collected. How is this data going to be examined ?

The All India Khadi and Village Industries Board at its meeting in Delhi in December last recommended to the Government that for such examination and assessment of the productive capacity and technical potentialities of the Ambar Charkha, a Committee of specialists representing the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, the Ministry of Prduction and the Planning Commission should be set up. The Government of India has responded to this desire of the Board and has appointed a Committee consisting of Shri S. S. Khera, I. C. S. Secretary of the Ministry of Production, who will be its Chairman. The other members of the Committee are :

1. Shri S. R. Vasavada (General Secretary, Ahmedabad Textile Labour Association)
2. Shri P. M. Bhuta (General Manager, Express Mills, Nagpur)
3. Shri N. Majumdar, (Industrial Adviser, (Textile Production) Textile Commissioner's Office, Bombay).
4. Shri A. S. E. Iyer, (Secretary, All India Handloom Board)
5. Shri C. J. Soneji (Textile Technologist and Industrial Chemist, Bombay)
6. Shri Krishnadas Gandhi, (Sarva Seva Sangh, Wardha).

According to its terms of reference, the Committee will report on :

1. Whether the different tools or machines comprising the Ambar Charkha set are capable of being worked by hand,

2. Whether a normal adult can work on the Charkha for 8 hours with reasonable intervals of rest without any particular feeling of fatigue and whether the Charkha can yield about eight hanks of yarn starting from the carding of cotton, or the production of about 16 hanks if the rovings are separately prepared and supplied,

3. Whether the yarn produced on the Ambar Charkha is fairly even and strong and does not result into many breakages

while passing through the reeds, and,

4. Whether the yarn is capable of being woven as easily and as speedily as the average reeled mill yarn.

In addition, the Committee has been asked to assess the capacity of the Ambar Charkha to produce yarn of coarse, medium and fine counts ranging from 6 to 18, 18 to 32, 32 to 48 counts and to investigate the availability of cotton for producing the different kinds of yarn and about the types and texture of cloth that can be woven from the Ambar Charkha yarn and how they compare with similar cloth woven out of mill yarn.

The Committee has been asked to report by the end of April 1956.

The terms of reference are as wide and comprehensive as they can be and incorporates all or most of the points stipulated in the Board's resolution. These points are :

(1) Whether the different tools or machines comprising the set are capable of being worked with hand ?

(2) Whether an able adult can work them for 8 hours with reasonable intervals of rest, say 15 minutes after every 2 hours and a recess of one or two hours after 4 hours without any particular feeling of fatigue ?

(3) Whether the tools or machines can give a production of about 8 hanks, starting from cotton and upto production of yarn or a production of about 16 hanks if the rovings were separately prepared and supplied, for 8 hours effective work by a person who has received training for 6 weeks and has regularly practiced on the Charkha for a further period of 6 weeks ?

(4) Whether the tools or machines are capable of producing yarn of coarse, medium and fine counts with necessary adjustments, the range being 6 to 18, 18 to 32 and 32 to 48 ?

(5) Whether the yarn is fairly even for the purpose of weaving on handloom; i. e. it does not result in too many breakages while passing through the reeds because of the variations in the counts ? (It is a common experience that there would not be excessive breakages if the variations are from 4 to 6 counts).

(6) Whether the yarn if fairly strongfor the purpose of weaving on handlooms; i. e. it does not give any particular difficulty in sizing and weaving. It should be capable of being woven more or less as easily as the average reeled yarn available to handloom weavers in the market and with more or less as much speed. An efficient weaver on an average weaves 3 to 10 yards per 8 hours excluding time required for preparing the warps and weft bobbins. It is desired that Ambar Charkha yarn gives at least 75 per cent of this production.

(7) Actual practical tests may be carried out in the workshop both in respect of the working of Ambar Charkha set and the handloom weaving of Ambar Charkha yarn and mill yarn.

(8) It is necessary to fix up the varieties of available cotton for different counts of yarn. (There is no question of preparing of any mixings of cotton as in the case of the mills. Different kinds of cotton will have to be used as much for the different counts). A list may be prepared to indicate which varieties of cotton are suitable for spinning different counts with the Ambar Charkha set.

(9) Regarding weaving tests, a list may he prepared of suitable cloths of specified reeds and picks to be woven on the handloom from Ambar Charkha yarn and mill yarn.

(10) The Ambar Charkha yarn may be tested for its lea, strength, count variations and compared with such tests on average reeled yarn of mills of identical counts.

(11) A study may be made regarding percentage of waste at different stages in spinning and weaving and compared with similar wastage in producing mill yarn of identical counts from the same variety of cotton."

In assessing the data on these various points note has been taken of the fact that the Ambar Charkha is designed for operation in villages and, in village homes by village artisans and agriculturalists. In determining the quality of the yarn spun on it, the criterion should be that the yarn is handspun yarn and tests suggested should be applied with that consideration in view. We have no doubt that on the question of productivity the Ambar Charkha will give a good account of itself. Such reports as have trickled down from the 110 Parishramalayas where the field experiments are in progress show that the claims made for the Ambar Charkha are justified. Instances of a production of 33 lakhs of 840 yards each in eight hours have been received. Down in the South (Kerala) officials carrying out these experiments are hopeful that it would be possible to spin 24 to 28 hanks of yarn in eight hours on an average, taking spinning alone into account. There are, of course, instances where the spinner has not reached the efficiency expected of him. But these are after all trying out experiments and the persons engaged are new and are still under training. It has been found that those who are used to the traditional Charkha show quicker aptitude for adaptation to spinning on the Ambar Charkha. Those who never handled the spinning wheel find it a little difficult to acquire regulation and speed in the handling of the Ambar Charkha. But it has been stated on behalf of the Board that operation on the Ambar Charkha will be facilitated only after a short period of training. It has also been made clear that the Ambar Charkha is an ever improving instrument and improvements effected will be incorporated as new models are introduced. However, the Charkha as it stands conforms to the claims made for it.

Such are the impressions conveyed by the reports presented to the meeting of the All India Khadi and Village Industries Board held in Bombay on the

8th and 9th of this Month. The Board discussed at length the possibilities of Government accepting the Ambar Charkha programme. The Board took note particularly of the widespread interest the Ambar Charkha has created in the country and among technicians. The field experiments on a wide scale started under the aegis of the Board, have led others to prepare other models. For Example, Shri G. Venkatachalapathy, a Member of the Board and Director of Rural Welfare of Government of Madras has expressed the hope that the new models that are being designed in the centres other than those of the Board, would also be available for tests. One such model is an 8-spindle Charkha now being experimented upon in Madras State. In Bombay slight adjustments on the present model has resulted in marked improvement in the working of the Charkha. This widespread interest in the Ambar Charkha and the attempts to improve upon the present model in every respect, the Board felt, is a helpful sign. There is no doubt that the Committee now appointed by the Government of India will take note of this new interest and the earnest search for ever and more improved models in the country. This earnestness promises that gradual application of scientific knowledge and modern technological innovations will be successfully adapted to improve the present tools employed in village industries and thus create a climate for introduction of improved techniques by the numerous artisans engaged in these industries. The Board's resolution on the appointment of the Ambar Charkha Assessment Committee reads as follows :

"The Board notes with satisfaction the appointment of a Committee to examine the results of the tests and field investigations being carried out on the Ambar Charkha, more of less on the lines indicated by the Board in the resolution adopted at its last meeting. The Board hopes that the Committee will be able to complete its work by the date, viz. 30th April, 1956., mentioned in Government orders on the subject and trusts that it will be possible for the Planning Commission shortly thereafter to take an early decision on the place of the Ambar Charkha in the common production programme for the supply of yarn for the additional demand for cloth in the next five year period. In this connection, the Board would emphasise the employment potential of the programme, which is of the order of 50 lakhs persons – which is of great significance, particularly in the light of the fact that in the Draft Outline of the Second Five Year Plan provision has been made so far for additional employment for 80 lakhs persons as against the estimated number of 150 lakhs for whom employment has to be provided".

This will mean that planned development will fail to have an impact on the employment position in the country and at the end of the Second plan also the position will be what it is to-day, if not worse. It is, therefore, imperative that

programme which have a high employment potentiality must receive close consideration and be accorded priority in allocation. The volume of employment that a developing Ambar Charkha programme holds out will not be limited to the number of spinners and helpers. It will open out avenues of gainful occupations to a variety of village artisans and usher in conditions for the revival of idle handlooms, the conversion of domestic looms, as in Assam and Manipur, into economic or commercial looms and the improvement of the position of village carpentry and smithy industries. The effects of a successful Ambar Charkha programme does not lend itself to acceptable modes of measurement.

Allied to the Ambar Charkha is the development of the Handloom Industry. There is a growing feeling in the country, particularly in the community of handloom weavers, that the progress of their industry depends on the development and improvement of the handspinning industry. Whether the Ambar Charkha yarn will be acceptable to the community of handloom weavers is now being tried out. Attempts have gone on, side by side, to co-ordinate the activities of the All India-Handloom Board and of the All India Khadi and Village Industries Board. There have been certain differences in approach and outlook between the two Boards on the extension of the various types of aids offered by the Handloom Board to those looms which are engaged in the weaving of Khadi and in respect of the spheres of activities of the two Boards. On these points of difference, the Chairmen of the two Boards have been in correspondence and as a result the position has become more helpful. The Secretary of the Handloom Board who participated in the deliberations of the All India Khadi and Village Industries Board, stated that it would be possible to devise arrangements which would enable the weavers using handspun yarn to take advantage of the aids and facilities such as are covered by the general schemes of the All India Handloom Board. Details of such arrangements, it was agreed, might be worked out jointly by the representatives of the two Boards. This growing indentity of purpose between the two Boards augurs well for the large-scale production of qualitatively suitable handspun yarn through the Ambar Charkha to feed the idle and partially worked handlooms in the country. The handloom industry to-day presents the spectacle of a distressed industry in spite of the various measures taken by the Government of India to rehabilitate it. As the Hanloom Board has itself pointed out, the weavers do not get adequate supplies of yarn to keep them fully engaged and to assure for themselves work which will give them a a living wage. It is to overcome this unsatisfactory situation that the Ambar Charkha programme has been formulated. In the bargain lakhs of destitute people in the villages will also find worth while occupations. Thus the Ambar Charkha programme seeks to

render a very significant service to the country and its economy.

It is in this context that the Board reiterated its request to the Central Government to accept its Ambar Charkha programme for 1956-57. After having accepted the financial responsibility to the tune of nearly Rs. 30 lakhs for the pilot programme of the Board, it is illogical not to provide for the continuance of that programme in a more extended form. After all, the first year's Ambar Charkha programme is only a limited one. As the Board's resolution (December) States :- "The postponement of a decision on the Board's programme for the Ambar Charkha should not involve, the Board would emphasise, the contingency of work on the Ambar Charkha being suspended for purposes of either demonstration or production. The Board is confident that the favourable atmosphere created by the introduction of the Ambar Charkha should be taken advantage of by expanding production with its aid, particularly to prepare the ground for its adoption as an integral part of the Second Five Year Plan. Even, otherwise, the Board would strive for its gradual introduction among traditional hand-spinners so as to improve the quantum as well as the quality of production and to secure better earnings from spinning. Hence the Board requests the Central Government to accord their approval to the First Year's programme of the Ambar Charkha already submitted to Government and to make suitable provision for the same in the next year's budget".

The Board attached great importance to the constitution of Khadi and Village Industries Statutory Commission. Disappointment was expressed at the Bombay meeting at the delay in not getting the Bill passed by Parliament, even though it was introduced in last April—nearly a year ago. It took note of the general impression that prevailed that the Karve Committee did not favour the formation of Statutory bodies for village and small-scale industries. No doubt that Committee envisaged that small-scale and village industries should come under the control of a separate Ministry with a Minister of Cabinet rank. A separate Ministry will certainly be a great improvement on the present position. Constitution of such a Ministry will give to this sector of the economy a new importance and status. Programmes for their organisation and development would naturally receive greater and more earnest and direct attention. But, with all, the problems of organization of programmes and executing them will still raise difficult problems. Specialised agencies with adequate powers of initiative and leadership will still be needed for the efficient implementation of development programmes. The Boards which are today engaged in such efforts, though vested with quasi-autonomous powers, are *de facto* advisory bodies and are treated as such. This explains, in a large measure, the relatively poor performance in the field

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WORK OF THE ALL INDIA KHADI BOARD

We are already on the eve of the Second Five Year Plan. It is, therefore, only natural that we should sit back awhile and reflect on what has been done during the period of the First Plan and then try to assess what has been achieved. Such an assessment will provide the pointer to the possibilities of performance in the years that lie ahead. In this report which covers the period April 1955 to January 1956, an attempt is made first to record the work done in the direction of implementing the programmes of the All India Khadi and Village Industries Board for the year 1955-56 and secondly to evaluate, however sketchily, the impact of the programme on the section of the population whom they sought to benefit.

The period under report is crowded with events which have a direct bearing on the cause that development of Khadi and other Village Industries seek to subserve. There has been a wider appreciation of the importance of these industries to the economy and a general recognition that a solution to the large and growing unemployment and massive under-employment problem in the country can be found only through their sustained development. The draft Plan Frame which was published during this period emphasised this point when it said that, until unemployment is liquidated, production of the bulk of the consumer articles in common demand should be reserved to the hand and house-hold industries and that there should be no expansion of factory production of these articles. The Rural Credit Survey likewise spotlighted the need for conditions and institutional changes which would offer favourable operative facilities to these industries. These encouraged the All India Khadi and Village Industries Board to prepare its own comprehensive proposals for the Second Five Year Plan and place them before the Government for consideration. These proposals and the policy requirements for their successful implementation were broadly accepted by the representative Conference of State Khadi and Village Industries Boards and State Gevernments. The Conference was held in August at Poona.

(A summary of the Board's proposals is published in "Khadi-Gramodyog": August, 1955 : Page 17. The number of Ambar Charkhas required for the Khadi

Programme has since been calculated as 25 lakhs.)

The Planning Commission appointed the Karve Committee to examine these proposals and those formulated by the other Boards and to frame a programme of integrated development for Village and Small-scale Industries. The Committee's Report is a virtual vindication of the All India Khadi and Village Industries Board's approach and outlook. If its recommendations did not fully accord with the financial outlay envisaged by the Board, it was, in large part, due to the financial limits prescribed for these industries by the Planning Commission. The report is unique and, for the first time, sets out the basic principles of economic and social policies which should inform planning for development. The recommendations of the Committee have led to a great controversy and to new lines of economic thinking. These questions are outside the scope of this report. But a reference to these is relevant and necessary, as they have a direct influence on the programme that the Board is at present working out and the importance they will assume, both in content and in volume, as the Second Five Year Plan year opens in April, 1956. This is also necessary in order to focus public attention on the criterion that, in the formulation of the Second National Plan, the possibilities that development of Khadi and Village Industries offer for the improvement of the living conditions and standards of the vast rural population should weigh more than what has been possible for the Board to achieve during the short period during which it has been functioning. To pitch future programmes on the basis of current performance will be a wrong procedure and approach. For, whatever shortcomings there have been, are short-comings not entirely attributable to the Board.

THE REPORT

The Board met four times during the period in different places to consider the various problems arising out of the implementation of its programme for 1955-56. Among the notable features may be mentioned the following :

1. Introduction of a Bill by Government in Parliament in April 1955, to convert the Board into a statutory Commission.
2. Inauguration of 'Khadi-Gramodyog Bhavan' in New Delhi in April 1955.
3. Transfer of the Board from the Administrative purview of the Commerce and Industry Ministry to that of the Production Ministry in June, 1955.
4. Evolution of the Ambar Charkha which promises to bring about a revolution in the handspinning industry.
5. Formation of State Khadi and Village Industries Boards in States where these had not been formed and conversion of some of the Boards into Statutory Bodies.

6. Conference of Representatives of State Khadi and Village Industries Boards and of State Governments in Poona in August 1955.

The decision of the Government to introduce the Bill to convert the Board into a Statutory Commission was taken at the instance of the Commerce and Industry Ministry. This was done in view of the experience gained during the two years of the Board's working and the numerous procedural and other difficulties which it had to face in organising and executing its programmes. The Bill is still before Parliament.

Transfer of the Board from the Administrative purview of the Commerce and Industry Ministry to that of the Production Ministry does not involve any basic or fundamental change except, perhaps, in the matter of speedier issue of sanctions and to that extent facilitating the work of the Board. Soon after this took place, the Minister for Production who was on a visit to Bombay, paid a visit to the Central Office of the Board in Bombay and had consultations with the Chairman. He attended the meeting of the Board in December 1955 at Delhi and participated in the discussions on the proposals for the Second Five Year Plan.

AMBAR CHARKHA

The Ambar Charkha was first publicly demonstrated in the All India Khadi and Village Industries Exhibition held in Delhi in April 1954. Since then the Sarva Seva Sangh has carried on research and experiments with a view to making it cheaper and a more efficient instrument capable of being operated with ease in village hamlets. These research and experiments have resulted in the standardisation of a model which has been found to be efficient with regard to productivity as well as the quality of the yarn produced. In consultation with the Sarva Seva Sangh, the Board decided to introduce the Ambar Charkha on a wide scale in the country as the basis of its main Khadi programme during the Second Five Year Plan period. The programme is based on the assumption that all the additional yarn requirements for the production of 1,500 million yards of cloth by the handlooms would be reserved to the hand-spininng sector. The programme envisaged the introduction of some 17 to 18 lakhs of these Charkhas to produce the required quantity of yarn. This was revised later and the number of Charkhas to be introduced was computed at 25 lakhs.

As the Government required extensive data to determine the suitability of the Ambar Charkha yarn for the handloom industry, the Board decided to have a pilot programme of field tests. According to this programme 15 Vidyalayas were started to train 400 persons to run 100 Parishramalayas in different parts of the country. The training programme has been completed, as scheduled, by the end of December, 1955 and 110, instead of 100, Parishramalayas have also gone into operation. The field tests are to be completed by the 31st March

1956 so that the Government can have the desired data to determine the place of the Ambar Charkha in the Second Five Year Plan in time.

STATE BOARDS

Twentythree States have formed State Khadi and Village Industries Boards analogous to the All India Board. The formation of such Boards was on the initiative of the Central Board. States which have not constituted such Boards are :-

1. Jammu and Kashmir,
2. Himachal Pradesh,
3. PEPSU,
4. Manipur and
5. Andaman.

The following States have conferred statutory authority on their State Boards:-

1. Bombay,
2. Saurashtra,
3. Rajasthan,
4. Assam,
5. Hyderabad, and
6. Madhya Bharat.

As in the previous years, this year, too, a Conference of representatives of State Boards and State Governments was convened by the All India Khadi and Village Industries Board. The Conference met on the 10th and 11th of August in Poona and considered several questions affecting the effective implementation of programmes for the development of Khadi and Village Industries in an integrated manner. The proposals framed by the All India Khadi and Village Industries Board for inclusion in the Second Five Year Plan were examined at length by a separate committee of this Conference. On the recommendation of this committee the Conference accorded its general approval to the proposals and the targets and supported the policy requirements enunciated by the All India Khadi and Village Industries Board. (The decisions of the Conference on these proposals is published in Khadi-Gramodyog": September, 1955 : Page 76).

The Conference also separately discussed the relations that should subsist between the All India Khadi Board and the State Boards, between the State Boards and local institutions and the procedure to be followed for the working of the programmes of Khadi and Village Industries in Community Project Areas in the respective States. The decision of the Conference that the budget for the next financial year 1956-57 should incorporate the programmes of State Boards, is of qreat importance inasmuch as it brought a unity of approach and purpose to the working out of the schemes on a nationwide scale.

DELHI EMPORIUM

Inauguration by the Congress President on 13th April, 1955, of the Khadi Gramodyog Bhavan in New Delhi marks yet another milestone in the campaign for the popularisation and marketing of Khadi and other articles of village industries. The success of the Bombay

Bhavan started the previous year, encouraged the Board to extend such sales Emporia to other cities in the country. The working of the Delhi Emporium during the short period of 8 months has completely justified the expectations entertained by the Board. The following figures speak for themselves:

Statement of Sales of Khadi and Saranjam at the Khadi–Gramodyog Bhavan in Delhi from April to December, 1955.

MONTH	SALES	
	Khadi	Saranjam
April	61593	1100
may	57853	1622
June	43797	1252
July	44410	1472
August	55699	5996
September	177481	8879
October	108492	—
November	178177	—
December	140474	—

IN PROJECT AREAS

Another development of great significance is the establishment of closer ties between the Board and the Community Projects Administration. The discussions which started during 1954–55 with Shri S.K.Dey, were continued during the period under report. As a result of these discussions, arrangements are materialising for the introduction of Khadi and Village Industries in the Project areas and their integration with the work of rural reform and reconstruction. According to these arrangements, the Board undertakes to train Block Level Officers both for the Pilot Projects and Development and Extension Blocks. With a view to give such training, facilties have been provided in the Nasik Vidyalaya and special arrangements have been entered into with the GuJerat Vidyapith in Ahmedabad. Training courses at both the places started in early December. Besides, Shri R.Srinivasan, Joint member Secretary of the Board, has been deputed to represent the Board on the Action Committee set up by the Community Projects Administration. This growing cooperation and identity of purpose between the Board and the Community Projects Administration augurs well for expanded Programmes of Khadi and Village Industries during the Second Five Year Plan period. (A Statement at the end of this repoart shows the training facilites provided by the Board and the number of C. P. A. personnel now under training).

In order to facilitate proper organisation and direction of its schemes the Board has created two additional Departments, vis,, the Directorate of Development and the Directorate of Training. This has become necessary as special attention has to be paid to problems connected with development of industrial programmes and the training of personnel for the different industries and purposes.

INTENSIVE AREA

It is also worthy of note that the Intensive Area Schemes of the Board have now begun to take shape. The programmes are organised after a survey of selected areas. Active participation of the people in those areas is enlisted at each stage of the survey and in the preparation of the programme of work based on the data provided by such surveys. In pursuance of this, a survey of Raiyan Village in Uttar Pradesh was undertaken early in 1955 and completed in April 1955.

Subsequently a Conference of Intensive Area workers was held in Ajagara in Uttar Pradesh from 15th to 23rd April 1955. At the Conference the Raiyan Survey Report, its conclusions and the programme based on them were discussed at length and it was decided that immediate work should be started in Raiyan Village to implement the programme. (See Board's publication: A Village Plan 0-8-0). The programme is now being worked, and, though adequate information has not been made available, indications are that the programme will be worked out successfully. A similar survey of Sahson Village near Allahabad was undertaken and is now nearing completion. These surveys and the institutional set up for implementation of the intensive area scemes of the Board have progressed and the stage is set for effective community organisation on an extended scale.

Meanwhile, the Economic Research Section of the Board has started field investigations to assess and evaluate the effect of the working of the various programmes of the Board. These investigations are in progress at present.

PUBLICITY

The Publicity Section of the Board has also been active. During the period under report it continued the publication of the monthly "Khadi Gramodyog" in English and in Hindi, and of the "Tad Gud Samachar" in English, Hindi and in Tamil. Besides these the following publications have been brought out :

List Of Publications.

1. Second Five Year Plan (Khadi & V. I.) English.
2. Planning for Full Employment (English & Hindi)
3. Annual Report 1953-54 (English & Hindi)
4. Building From Below (Two Editions in English)
5. Hand-made Paper Industry (English)
6. Village Oil Industry (English)
7. What's What in Bee-keeping ,,
8. Where to Start Bee-keeping ,,
9. Wealth From Waste (Soap-making) ,,
10. Village Leather Industry (English & Hindi)
11. Schemes 1955-56 ,, ,,
12. Cottage Match Industry ,, ,,

13. Create Your Own Jobs (Eng. & Hindi)
14. Village Plan ,, ,,
15. Khadi Schemes ,, ,,
16. Sale of Khadi Hundis ,, ,,
17. Training in Village Industries ,, ,,
18. Organisational Research for Village Industries ,, ,,
19. Why Decentralisation? ,, ,,
20. Training Programme for Village Industries (English)
21. Ambar Charkha (English & Hindi)
22. Economics of Ambar Charkha ,, ,,
23. Economics of Khadi ,, ,,
24. Tadgud Parichay ,, ,,

Before we conclude this General Survey, mention must be made of the appointment by the Board of a four-man committee to prepare a scheme for the reorganisation of the administrative set up. Shri G. Venkatachalapathy is the Chairman of the Committee. The other members are Shri P. S. Kapadia, Shri Dhwaja Prasad Sahu, Shri Raojibhai N. Patel.

We must also record here the interest the Board's activities have roused in neighbouring countries. There have been demands for a survey team of the Board to investigate and report on the possibilities of developing hand industries in Sikkim, and in Cambodia. A one-man team of the Board - Shri Bharatanand (Maurice Friedman)—was deputed to Sikkim. After a rapid survey extending over a period of six weeks, he has presented his report which is now being considered by the Government of Sikkim.

PROGRESS

Industry-wise, work during April to January and the progress made are given below :-

KHADI WORK

During the period under report, the Khadi work has taken longer strides and all centres show increased activity and production. Reports from all the centres have not yet been received and those received are incomplete. The effect of the increased activity, production and sales will be known only at the end of the year. Much of the period under report comes in the monsoon season during which Khadi production usually is either suspended, or carried on on a small scale. The reports received so far show the following results :-

Khadi Production

	Sq. Yds.	Wt. in lbs.	Value (in Rs.)
Khadi	1,28,68,436	38,11,005	2,46,56,970
Woollen	2,73,110	1,55,281	13,77,807
Silk	3,87,514	1,99,360	18,71,130
Total	1,35,29,060	41,65,646	2,79,05,907
Self Sufficiency	26,13,801	11,90,808	34,20,904
	1,61,42,861	53,56,454	3,13,26,811

It will be seen that production, during the period, incomplete as the reports are, compares favourably with the production during 1953-54 and 1954-55. The figures for these years are :-

	Sq. Yards	Wt. in lbs.	Value (in Rs.)
1953-54	1,22,55,318	—	2,44,36,121
1954-55	1,65,21,414	56,71,833	3,14,31,057

The extent of progress can be guaged from a comparison of the employment figures which are as follows :-

Year	Spinners.	Weavers	Others.	Total
1953-54	2,60,086	19,112	3,652	2,82,850
1954-55	3,48,525	33,320	5,434	3,87,279
1955-56 (9 months)	4,06,437	67,096	10,426	4,83,932

The position in regard to supplies against Government tenders have also registered appreciable progress. In 1953-54 supply to Government Departments was as follows :

Yards	Value
1,81,701	4,31,051

In 1954-55 the tenders accepted by the Board were :

Yards	Value
13,47,941	32,14,188

Supplies against these tenders would be completed during the current year. Supplies already made are of the order of 13,30,710 yards:

In the current year tenders for 38,52,241 yards have been received. Of these 12,99,983 yards are to be supplied tn the next year. Already about 9,00,000 yards have been supplied.

Below is given a summary of the financial statement of Government sanctions and expenditure incurred in respect of Khadi Development.

STATEMENT OF LOANS.

S. No. Item of Expenditure	Boards ultimate requirements.	Govt. Sanction.	Disbursment as on 31-12-55
1. Loan for Khadi accounted for in P. L. A. uA.	1,99,00,000/- (inclesive of loan for Ambar Charkha).	1,12,00,000/-	91,84 000/-
2. Capital for trading operations P. L. A. 1B.	1,50,00,000/-	1,50,00,000/-	1,47,04,534/-
3. Advances for the purchase of Cotton, Wool, implements etc. Accounted for in P.L.A. IC.	1,40,00,000/-	90,00,000/-	82,06,300/-
	4,89,00,000/-	3,52,00,000/-	2,26,94,834/-

* The figures are up to December 1955. January figures have not yet been received.

Statement showing amounts sanctioned, expenditure incurred i. e. grants and subsidies for Khadi for the year 1955-56.

S. No.	Name of the Scheme	Boards' requirements during the year 1955-56.	Government sanction as on 31-12-1955.	Expenditure as on 31-12-55.
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Rebate at annas 3 per rupee on the sale of Khadi	85,00,000/-	55,00,000/-	36,47,872/-
2.	Vastraswavalamban	15,00,000/-	11,00,000/-	6,36,983/-
3.	Saranjam subsidy	6,25,000/-	4,25,000/-	2,60,321/-
4.	a. Payment of subsidy on production and sale of Khadi against claims of 1953-54.	18,566/15/-	18,566/15/-	18,509/-
	b. Subsidy on production and sale of Khadi	25,00,000/-	17,00,000/-	11,63,895/-
5.	Grants to intensive centres for construction of godowns	2,00,000/-	2,00,000/-	10,000/-
6.	Research in Khadi	2,04,000/-	53,089/-	11,709
7.	Exhibition	10,17,360/-	9,17,360/-	2,42,748/-
8.	Training in Nasik Vidyalaya	2,27,820/-	2,78,950/-	58,995/-
9.	Training in Regional Vidyalayas	10,51,400/-	2,93,525/-	1,95,299/-
10.	Training in Khadi-cum-Village industries and also agency sales	2,75,000/-	4,05,000/-	93,456/-
11.	Training in Khadi Gramodyog at Ahmedabad	21,500/-	21,525/-	21,525/-
12.	Training in Khadi Gramodyog at Kallupatti	76,500/-	—	—
13.	Training in Salesmanship of Khadi	19,300/-	23,500/-	11,745/-
14.	Spinning classes in Jails	79,200/-	79,200/-	13,940/-
15.	Khadi Hundi	2,40,000/-	2,40,000/-	14,733/-
16.	Subsidy for revival of Arts	11,50,000/-	1,00,000/-	49,145/-
17.	Spinning Competition	1,00,530/-	55,000/-	22,145/-
18.	Rehabilitation of weavers	2,00,000/-	1,00,000/-	21,000/-
19.	Promotion of handspinning	3,00,000/-	1,50,000/-	87,652/-
20.	Peripatetic parties	1,72,000/-	1,62,000/-	82,409/-
21.	Training in Ambar Charkha	5,94,000/-	5,94,000/-	20,000/-
22.	Ambar Charkha Pilot Scheme	17,58,625/-	17,58,625/-	17,58,625/-
23.	Honorarium to workers engaged in sale of Khadi	—	2,50,000/-	20,229/-
	Grand Total	208,30,801/15/-	144,25,340/15/-	84,62,935/-

VILLAGE INDUSTRIES

In the sphere of village industries, though the progress has not been spectacular, conditions have been created in which a large advance is made possible.

1 Handpounding Industry.

Thus, for instance, the importance of the *handpounding industry* is now being increasingly recognised. The Rice Milling Committee appointed by the Government of India (1954-55) submitted its report during the period under review. The report is a complete vindication of the stand taken by the All India Khadi and Village Industries Board and has endorsed its recommendations to the Government. These recommendations come under two categories:

(i) large expansion of the handpounding industry in the institutional form will be possible only when machine milling is banned,

(ii) improvements are necessary in the implements used for dehusking paddy and for milling rice.

Under both these heads the Rice Milling Committee has agreed with the conclusions reached by the All India Khadi and Village Industries Board, viz., that all the huller mills, small and big, should immediately be banned and that for efficient processing of paddy the 'Chakki--dhenki unit' may be adopted with advantage.

The Committee has pointed out that nearly 40 per cent of the paddy produced in the country is at present processed by rice mills. For every one employed in the rice mills, thirty to fifty handpounders have been displaced and that, if all the paddy now being precessed by the mills is made over to the handpounding sector, additional gainful employment can be given to nearly 26 lakhs of people for six months in the year. Further, the committee has come to the conclusion that processing of paddy by huller machines result in the wastage of valuable foodgrain and results in the destruction of its nutritional properties. Thus, both from the point of view of recovery of rice and of national health, the committee has rocommended that paddy should be handprocessed. This report is now before the Government.

While Government decision on the recommendations of the Committee will go a long way to giving a fillip to handpounding industry, the efforts of the Board continue in the direction of forming producers' cooperatives for the processing of paddy, formation of nutrition Committees and training of nutrition workers on a district level for wide-spread propagation of information about the harmful effects of mill rice and on the nutritional value of handpounded rice. Training of inspectors, instructors, etc. are also continuing. While hitherto training on all aspects of rice milling, on the different implements used in the various parts of the country and on the particular utility

of the chakki-dhenki unit was being given only at Nadiad, training facilities are now being extended to more centres in the country. At the close of 1954-55 there were 161 cooperative societies of handpounders distributed in ten different States. While the expenditure incurred during that year amounted to a total of Rs. 2,17,337 by way of subsidies and loans, the expenditure so far incurred during 1955-56 is 8,47,392 under grants and loans. The number of cooperative societies also increased to 221 employing nearly 10,000 workers.

Large expenditure will be incurred during the rest of the financial year. The major part of the period under report came in the rainy season and, therefore, of agricultural operations. As the handpounding industry begins its operations only after harvesting, expansion of the work in this direction will materialize during the coming months.

2. Atta Chakki Scheme

The scheme is supplementary to the Hand-Pounding of Rice Industry and was started in the month of September 1955. The object of the scheme is to assist in the revival and popularization of handgrinding of food grains. The considerations which prompted the Board to take up this scheme are the same as those governing the hand-pounding of rice. Nutritional authorities attach to the handground *atta* a greater nutritional value. In a country where the masses of people are resourceless and generally do not have recourse to supplementary diets the flour or the whole grain is their main source of food and sustenance. It is, therefore, important that recourse to handground *atta* should be as widely popularized and propagated as hand-pounded rice. The programme of the Board is three-fold :

(1) to effect improvements in the chakkis at present working by assisting handgrinders to incorporate ball bearing attachments to their chakkis. Such attachments have been found to be helpful in making the chakki more efficient and hand-grinding less labourious and tedious. The Board supplies these ball bearings at half their cost.

(2) The manufacture and supply of improved chakkis. These chakkis have galvanized sheet plated on the top around the piston of the lower stone. These have also ball-bearing attachments.

(3! For larae-scale grinding, the introduction of bullock chakkis.

During the year 1954-55 Government sanctioned a sum of Rs. 15,000 for the supply of improved Atta Chakkis at 50 per cent of cost or Rs. 10 whichever was less. As effective organization for the manufacture and supply of these chakkis was found to be difficult, activities were confined to providing ball-bearing attachments to old chakkis and the amount sanctioned for the chakkis was utilized for this purpose. The

number of ball-bearing sets supplied during that year was 957.

This activity continued during the year 1955-56 and at the end of January 1956 a total of 11,759 ball-bearing sets had been supplied and attached to old working chakkis. A great difficulty facing the rapid progress of the programme is the non-availability of adequate numbers of improved chakkis made out of stone of the requisite quality. As a result of investigations, Emeri Stone Chakkis manufactured in Rajasthan by the Emeri Stone Manufacturing Company of Kuchaman Road were approved. The manufacturers have offered 5 per cent commission to institutions selling these chakkis. For the manufacture of ball-bearing sets, the following institutions have been approved, as their product has been found to meet the requirements :

S.No.	Name of Institution	Srate
1.	Khadi Gramodyog Mandal, Shamlaji, Dist. Benaskantha.	
2.	National Engineering Co. Godhra Dist. Punchmahals.	„
3.	Khadi Ashram, Ambala,	Punjab
4.	Khadi Karyalaya, Savara,	Saurashtra
5.	Saurashtra Khadi Gramodyog Mandal, Junagadh.	„
6.	Gandhi Ashram, Meerut,	Uttar Pradesh
7.	Gramodyog Trust, Pukhraya	„

The number of improred Atta Chakkis distributed during 1955-56 is 735, while orders have been placed for an additional 213. Amounts sanctioned under the Atta Chakki Scheme are shown in the following table :

Year	Number of Chakkis	Amount of Subsidy
1954-55	1,500	15,000
1955-56	10,000	100,000
Amount sanctioned direct to States:-		
1. Ajmer		2000
2. Hyderabad		10000
3. Madhya Bharat		2000

Besides these amounts, a sum of Rs. 5,000 was placed at the disposal of the Rajasthan State Khadi and Village Industries Board for supplying Atta Chokkis at subsidised rates. The incentive that is thus provided has created popular interest in the Atta Chakki Scheme and the demand for improved chakkis has been growing. Besides the Emeri Stone Manufacturing Co. referred to earlier, the Akhil Bharat Sarva Seva Sangh, Wardha, and the Intensive Area at Khadasali in Saurashtra also manufacture Atta Chakkis of approved quality While hand-grinding Atta Chakki with the ball-bearing attachments have been found to be successful, Bullock chakkis have not come up to expectations. The Bullock chakkis manufactured by the Nahan engineering foundry in Himachal Pradesh which were approved for introduction, have been found, as a result of field operations, to be inefficient and uneconomic. The scheme has, therefore,

been discontinued for the present.

A sum of Rs. 40,000 sanctioned for bullock driven chakkis during the year 1954-55 has been utilized. 80 such chakkis were introduced in 8 States as shown below :-

Bombay	39
Madhya Bharat	13
Bihar	9
Hyderabad	1
Orissa	1
Rajasthan	4
Saurashtra	1
Uttar Pradesh	12
	80

The Government of India placed directly at the disposal of the Bombay State Board and the Government of Hyderabad two sums of Rs. 10,000 and Rs. 12,500 respectively during 1955-56.

3. Bee Keeping Industry :

The progress in the development of the Bee Keeping Industry is, by its very nature, bound to be slow. In the first place trained personnel for organising and keeping apiaries, fieldmen to train bee keepers in the villages and surveyors to survey suitable areas for location of development centres are the determining factors. As the Board's programme seeks to introduce the modern type of bee keeping which is still in its infancy in the country, its programmes had been of modest dimension. In the second place, a correct idea of the progress of bee keeping is difficult to convey in a report for shorter periods. The reason is that the different types of operations involved are carried out during different parts of of the year. To mark out one particular side, leaving the others, cannot give a composite idea of development or of progress. For Example, operations are carried on in the following seasons: and in the following manner
January to March: hiving of new colonies
March to June : harvesting of honey.

July to October : scarcity season for the bees. During this period desertion of colonies takes place. If is during these months that equipments necessary for bee keeping, including hives, are manufactured and marketing is undertaken.

The balance of the three months are occupied in rehiving deserted colonies and the strengthening of those that remain. While, therefore, in assessing progress during the 10 months of April to January, these different aspects have to be taken into account.

The Scheme for 1955-56 was for the stabilization of the 10 Area Offices and 100 substations already established during the previous year and the addition of 5 new Area Offices and 50 more substations. In addition work in connection with the setting up of the 25 model Apiaries sanctioned during the previous year was also in the programme. No addition to these Model Apiaries was contemplated except to add 5 more hives to each such apiary during the

year. The programme also included training of 255 fieldmen and ten apiarists. Work done so far in these directions may be gauged from the table below.

The total expenditure already incurred comes to Rs. 4,48,392 against the sanctioned amount of Rs, 9,74,600 under grants and loans.

Progress of Work on 31st Jan. 1956

Number of Substations	...	138
Model Apiaries	...	17
School Apiaries	...	52
Production	...	37,666 lbs.
Sale Value	...	51,601 Rs,
Employment	...	3,287 part-time 213 Full-Time

MONTH-WISE PROGREES.

MONTH	Colonies at the beginning of the month.	Colonies captured during the month	Colonies deserted	Colonies at the end.	Production of honey during the month in lbs.	No. of Bee-keepers	No. of Villages	Sub-Stations	Honey sold during the month.
1. April	7,061	1,220	366	7,915	6,274-5	2,425	391	100	5,388
2. May	7,915	870	225	8,560	14,069	2,660	422	100	10,875
3. June	8,525	342	257	8,620	4,451	2.688	457	100	4,820
4. July	8,620	176	523	8,277	5,578	2,766	456	100	569
5. August	8,273	73	637	7,709	462	2,699	459	125	699
6. September	7,709	423	371	7,761	850	2,717	488	130	—
7. November	7,842	884	278	8,448	1,086-9	3,074	602	130	—
8. December	8,448	1,150	294	9,304	2,181-2	3,287	671	130	781-6
9. January	9,304	1,395	297	10,532	2,814-6	3,582	742	130	1,650-0
Total		6,533	3,248		37,765-17				24,782-6

4. The Village Oil Industry

The Programme of the Board for the development of the village oil industry is the gradual introduction of improved ghanis at subsidized rates and to aid existing ones to work to capacity. While the former is sought to be effected through organization of model ghani centres, the latter is sought to be brought about by registering ghanis so that they can be brought under some kind of institutional direction.

At the close of the financial year 1954–55 twentyfive Model Centres had been started and the programme for the current financial year was to start 50 additional Model Centres. It is expected that by the end of 1955–56, 100 model centres would be operating in different parts of the country. Between April and January 1956, Oil Ghanis registered numbered 5,045 while at the beginning of the year the number of such ghanis was 423. Selling agencies

at the end of 1954-55 numbered 148. Between April 1955 and January this year, such agencies organised numbered 668.

Much improvement was also registered in the quantity of oil crushed during the period. While production was 4,870 maunds in the month of April, production in the month of September was 19,104 maunds by the registered ghanis. At the end of January 1956 the total quantity of oil crushed was 50,450 maunds.

Similarly, employment also showed substantial increase. Those engaged in the operation of registered ghanis in the month of April was 1,122. The total number engaged in the village oil industry under the organization of the All India Khadi and Village Industries Board is now 10932.

The Total expenditure incurred so far comes to Rs: 8,65,674 against the sanctioned amount of Rs.20,99,000. Another sum of Rs. 3,12,000 has been either disbursed or allotted to State Govts. upto the end of September, for disbursement as loans. For the more efficient working of its development programmes, the Board has proposed to have an Organiser for the industry in each State. Arrangements are in progress to effect this change.

5. Gur-Khandsari :

Programme for the development of this industry could not be organised till the current financial year. The reason for the delay was occasioned by the non-sanction of schemes. Last year some sanction was made, but it came too late to undertake any worthwhile programme. The year 1954-55 closed as under :-

Villages surveyed	2,311
Villages selected for model centres	81
Honorary Workers trained	186
Number of cultivators to whom Deola or cane seeds were distributed	5,055
Loan given for purchase of implements:	
Kolhus	546
Kadas	220
Centrifugals	3

(Loans were given to the institutions for the purchase of these implements)

Implements sold to unattached producers :	
Kolhus	15
Percolators	12
No. of crushers inspected, repaired and renovated	320
Gur produced	3,80,553 mds.
Cream Jaggery produced	667 mds.
Khandsari Sugar produced	1,124 mds
Molasses	330 mds

Employment :

Direct	100
Indirect	500

As against this, from April 1955 to January 1956, the Gur-Khandsari scheme has been in operation in 12 States, including Uttar Pradesh. Much work, however, could not be carried out as the sanction for the scheme was received only in August 1955. The State Govern-

ments to whom finances were made over, took time to pass on the funds to approved agencies enaged in the implementation of the Board's Scheme. Actual work on the scheme started only towards the close of 1955. Most of the States in which the scheme is in operation, have completed survey of the villages, selected the areas for development and recruited candidates for training at Kanpur. Reports on the working of the scheme are awaited from the States. It may, however, be pointed out that this is the peak period for production and figures in this regard may be available only about the middle or end of April. Available reports suggest that the scheme is making progress in the States. The position at the end of January 31, is as follows:

1. Number of States in which the scheme is introduced. 12
2. Number of States in which the scheme is in actual operation. 9
3. Siatement of funds sanctioned;

	Loans	**Grants**	
To States:	2.12,500	a. Co. op. societies	1,88,000
		b. Sabsidies	1,65,600
		c. Central Co-ordination	1,03,000

The figures for the expanditure incurred have not yet been received. It is expected that, by the end of the financial year, most of the amounts sanctioned will have been utilised.

An idea of the working of the scheme at the time of this report may be gauged from the following facts :

1. Number of Co-operative societies formed (of these six are new) 15
2. Number of persons employed directly and indirectly :

	Whole Time	Seasonal Additional	Seasonal Fuller	Seasonal Casual
Direct	-	1002	15,000	7,500
Indirect	-	-	-	3,500
Employed under the scheme	450	40	-	-

The number of persons trained is given below :

1. At Nagpur	(M. P.)	22
2. At Patna	(Bihar)	31
3. In Uttar Pradesh		269
	Total	322

In adition 115 others were trained at the Central Training Centre at Kanpur as shown below :

1. Hyderabad	25
2. Andhra	47
3. Assam	17
4. Orissa	8
5. Bombay	8
6. Intensive Areas	15
Total	115

Other details pertaining to the working of the Scheme are as follows :

1. Villages Under the Scheme	5,740
2. No. of persons trained	437
3. Improved crushers introduced	683
4. Old Kolhus fitted	13,080
5. Pans distributed	310
6. Centrifugals distributed	48
7. Percolaters ,,	50

8. Cube frames ,,	60
9.(a) Gur moulds ,,	200
9.(b) Minor implements	3,900
10. Juice clarificants (No. of persons benefited)	15,000
11. Activited Carbon supplied	90 maunds
12. Co-operative Societies	15
13. Grading Stations	1
14. Furnances	5,850
15. Improved gur produced	1,47,000 maunds*
16. Cream Coloured jaggery	1,500 maunds
17. Demonstrations given	2,800

6. Palm Gur Industry

The development of Palm Gur Industry is organised and carried on through State Governments. The Government of India allots funds to the State Governments on the recommendation of the All India Khadi and Village Industries Board. The palm gur development schemes are in operation in the following 17 States :

1. Ajmer
2. Andhra
3. Assam
4. Bhopal
5. Bihar
6. Bombay
7. Hyderabad
8. Madhya Bharat
9. Madras
10. Mysore
11. Orissa
12. Rajasthan
13. Saurashtra
14. Travancore-Cochin
15. Uttar Pradesh
16. Vindhya Pradesh
17. West Bengal.

* The Gur manufacturing season gathers momentum in January and continues till the end of February. Actual production will be available only in March.

The Total expenditure involved in the promotion of the development programmes for the current year is Rs. 7,56,050 on account of grants and Rs. 5,73,750 for loans.

The expenditure so far incurred is Rs. 2,98,092 for grants and 1,31,100 for loans.

The position at the end of 1954-55 was :

I. Production of Palm-Gur : 13,50,000 mds.(Figures for Travancore Cochin are not available. Production expected in this State during 1955-56 is 7,90,000 mds.)

ii. Employment in the industry: 2,40,000 persons

iii. Amounts placed at the disposal of 13 states : Rs. 5,65,209

iv. Amounts distributed as grants and loans to institutions : Rs. 87335.

The work directly undertaken by the Board is technical guidance, removal of legal handicaps and disabilities. elimination of middlemen by organisation of Palm Gur Producers Co-operatives, training through the Bharatiya Tad Gud Shilpa Bhavan, facilitating export of Palm Gur, procurement of Government owned trees at nominal rents, facilitating supply of fuel from forests either free or at concessional rates, providing incentives to States showing best results by awarding shields. etc., organising sales and demonstration during exhibitions and generally carrying on propaganda to popularise palm gur and palm products.

The Baratiya Tad Gud Shilpa Bhavan or the Central Palm Gur Training School which was shifted from Cuddalore in Madras State to Dahanu in Bombay State early in January, 1955 has started its activities. In order to develop the technical side of the industry and also to cater to the needs of the Palm Gur Workers all over the country, the following new sections have recently been started in the Bhavan.

1. Carpentry Section
2. Smithy Section
3. Palm Leaf Products Section
4. Confectionary Section
5. Pottery Section
6. The Fibre Section will soon start functioning.

During the year, 9 candidates were trained at the Bhavan in the regular course, 97 in the specialised course and 38 in the investigational work. Experiments in the Bhavan pertain to the following :

1. Collection of scientific data on the working of 'Kifayat' and 'Mufeed' furnaces and improvements on them.
2. Introduction of cheap, simple and effective cloth filter to filter the delimed juice.
3. Better and efficient method of Neera clarification. This is now successfully introduced in regular work.
4. Studies in variations in Neera Compositions.
5. A daily tapping technique of tapping Date Palm Trees.
6. Studies on utilisation of solar heat.
7. Trials for introducing electric driven centrifugal.

The Central Palm Gur Pilot Demonstration Station at Udangudi, besides demonstrating improved patterns of Palm products, helped their producers to market them. Manufacture of sugar from molasses also was demonstrated successfully by this station. Other activities of this station included the training of 25 senior Inspectors of Cooperative Societies of the Government.

The Date Palm Gur Pilot Demonstration at Poona evolved a new furnace called 'Mufeed Bhatti'. To evaporate Neera a vacuum evaporator has been devised by the station. It has achieved measurable success in trials. Experiments on manuring and irrigating the Date Palm Tree have also been conducted by the Poona Station. The preliminary results obtained are encouraging. Preparation of ropes and mats from green date Palm leaves with the aid of hand driven carding and spinning machines has also been demonstrated and popularised by the station.

With a view to give training in the Palm Gur Industry to 100 candidates in each State, the All India Khadi and Village Industries Board has recently embarked upon a training scheme in the States of Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, PEPSU and the non-adivasi areas of

Madhya Bharat. So far 50 candidates in Madhya Pradesh, 30 in Punjab and 100 in Madhya Bharat have been recruited for the training.

The All India Palm Gur Workers' Fifth Refresher Course was held at the Dahabu Bhavan, from 15-5-55 to 31-5-55. Thirtysix trainees, State palm - gur organisers and tappers, from 12 different States attended the course. An exhibition demonstrating the technical advance made in the different stages, processes and aspects of the Palm Gur Industry, was organised on the occasion.

7. Hand Made Paper Industry :

At the end of 1954-55, fiftysix centres had started production of handmade paper of all qualities. The production was 500 tons and those engaged in the industry numbered 1500 persons. During the period under review the number of production centres have increased to 71. Out of these 27 were financially assisted through loans and subsidy for machinery and equipments, subsidy on production and by providing working capital. Production and employment during the period April to December 1955 in in these centres were 413 tons of paper valued at Rs. 10,25,520. Employment in the industry rose to 2,202 persons.

It should be mentioned here that four months of the period covered were monsoon months when handmade paper industry does not work to capacity.

In addition to the assistance given to production centres and traditional kagazis, the Board also assists schools which introduce handmade paper industry as a craft for education. Grants have been given upto now to 90 Schools. Of these 59 schools have trained craft teachers. Fifteen other schools carry out the work outside school hours. In 39 centres there are no craft teachers, but the Board has arranged to train such teachers for these schools. In the 36 centres where the craft is regularly taught, 1,500 students are taking instruction. At the time this report is being prepared a sum of Rs. 2,23,077 has been given away as grants, and Rs. 2,05,655 has been disbursed as loans against the total of Rs. 7,00,500 sanctioned for the purpose.

8. Cottage Match Industry*:

The Board's programme for the development of cottage match industry cuts new ground. The search for substitute materials to the traditional ones in the manufacture of splints and veneers has been a long one and considerable research and experiments had to be carried out before acceptable quality of matches could be prepared. The Khadi Prathisthan at Sodepur, near Calcutta, was engaged in these experiments and researches. As a result, the use of caste-away newspapers for preparing paste boards and hard or straw boards for making veneers and the cheap bamboo for making splints have been perfected. Experiments with chemicals, likewise, have also resulted in evolving formulae for

the preparation of tip composition and side painting composition. The paste Board veneers and the new compositions, it has been found, make excellent matches. With the perfection of these, the requisite implements to peel and cut the bamboos and to convert the paste board and straw and hard board into veneers had to be evolved. The tools have to be such as could be operated by hand with ease in cottage factories and within the means of the people who will be producing the matches. The Khadi Prathisthan has now devised efficient instruments for the purpose. Thus the preliminaries for launching cottage factories steadily and on an increasing scale have been completed.

Before such factories can be established, however, trained personnel is necessary. The processes involved in the manufacture of the paste-board-bamboo matches are basically different from those in the so-called cottage factories of today. Training required is such that those who take to the manufacture of these matches should have a complete theoretical and practical knowledge of all the processes from the preparation of paste boards and veneers out of them; from selection of bamboo and its conversion into splints, knowledge of chemicals and the proportions in mixing them for the tip and side compositions. It is well known that the processes carried out in the so-called cottage operations of today are mainly dipping and filling, as the splints and vaneers are provided ready-made by mechanised factories.

The Khadi Prathisthan, therefore, opened a training-cum-production centre where Science Graduates were trained as technicians, while matriculates were trained for demonstration and other purposes. The number so far trained at the Khadi Prathisthan upto January end was 89. Science graduates are paid monthly stipend of Rs. 60/-while matriculates receive a stipend of Rs. 40/-. The course of training at the Sodepur centre is of four months' duration and candidates are admitted throughout the year. At a time the capacity is 40 students. Another and speedier method of training evolved by the Khadi Prathisthan is the organisation of peripatetic demonstration-cum-training parties. Such parties tour different States where match factories already exist. Demonstrations are arranged in such factories and training imparted to persons selected from among those who attend such demonstrations. Generally this lasts for about 2 weeks at a place. The training given by such parties is considered sufficient for factory work.

While the training programme and experiments with tools and materials proceeded, steps were also taken for the organisation of cottage factories in different parts of the country. For this purpose Development Officers have been stationed at eleven Divisional Offices. 26 factories have already been established: thirteen factories have

been formed as cooperative societies and registered as factories in Hyderabad. Ten of these have been licensed and nine are in production. In the Bombay State, the Ramthirth factory and the Rajapur factory have begun producing matches. Eleven cooperative societies of Saurashtra have applied for licenses and as soon as these are obtained, these cooparatives will go into production. Madhya Bharat has already five factories where dipping has started. They are unable to send matches out as bandroles were not available to them. The quality of the matches produced has been found to be excellent. Another factory is nearing completion while ten more are being set up. In Travancore Cochin a factory was inaugurated during January 1956. The Bombay State Industrial State Cooparative Association has sold cottage matches to the value of Rs. 8,948-10-0 during the month of October. Wherever these matches have been offered for sale it has been found that there is a ready market and a general appreciation of the quality.

At the end of the period under report the position was as follows:

Factories	26
Production	2500 gross boxes
Value	Rs. 14000
Employmont	964 part-time

It should be stated, however, that the work so far done is only field work and experimental in nuture. The success achieved in this respect has created the confidence that cottage match factories can be organised on a wide scale in the country and thus open out new avenues of gainful employment to large numbers of people.

The following table gives an idea of the financial statement of the working of the scheme :

Statement of Expenditure

Year	Total amount sanctioned	Grants	Loans for Equipment	Loans for Working Capital	Total Loans	Grand total of expenditure.
1953-54	1,91,000	17,000	—		10,000	27,000
1954-55	3,12,425	34,580	—	2,64,000	2,64,000	2,98,580
1955-56	16,80,500	78,581			54,000	1,32,581

9. Village Leather Industry

The programme adumbrated by the Board for the organisation and development of Village Leather Industry is not only unique, but also novel. The object sought to be achieved is carcass recovery. This means that the dead animal is put to the maximum use and not merely flayed for its skin or hide. Calculations have established that out of a normal healthy dead animal different articles of great utility can be extracted. The programme of the Board for the development of the industry comes in four distinct categories, viz:-

1. Flaying Centres
2. Training-cum-production Centres;
3. Village Demonstration Parties and
4. Village model tanneries.

During 1955–56 Government had sanctioned 165 flaying centres. Of these 120 have been allotted to different institutions in different parts of the country. Of the allotted number 60 have already gone into production. The delay in respect of setting up of the remaining flaying centres is occasioned by various circumstances. Some of these are:–

Non-availability of suitable land at the proper time. Delay occasioned by surveys for the location of centres, paucity of adequate numbers of trained personnel for work in the flaying centres.

The processes involved being many and new, progress is naturally slow. There are various factors which deter speedy organisation and social prejudices, besides, have to be overcome. The work already done by the organisation set up by the Board has, to a large extent, created the conditions for speedier growth of flaying centres. Facilities for training in flaying and carcass recovery provided by the Board are inadequate, considering the size of its programme and the extent of the area it seeks to cover. Of the 12 training-cum-production centres sanctioned by the Government, nine have already been allotted to institutions. Of these nine, five have gone into production and are working since the end of 1953–54. Sanction for 82 demonstration parties has been obtained. Of these 35 have been selected and four are actively engaged in the work assigned to them. For the year 1954–55 sanction had been obtained for starting of Village Model Tanneries. Active steps are being taken by the institutions to achieve what has been allocated and all the model tanneries are expected to start work before long. The expenditure so far incurred by the Board in the implementation of its scheme for the Village Leather Industry is Rs. 8,21,111 already disbursed as grannts and Rs. 7,78,240 as loans. thus, the total amount utilised so far comes to Rs. 15,99,351 against a total sanction for both loans and grants amounting to Rs. 26,41,100.

10. Non-Edible Oils and Soap Industry.

Soap-making with non-edible oils is a new village industry. The industry has got great potentialities and can turn material now wasted into new wealth. It has also a great employment potential. But the success of the industry depends on various factors, the more important of which are :

(i) availability of large supplies of oil bearing non-edible seeds like neem, kardi, karanja, niger, mahuwa, etc.

(ii) survey and location of soap units where these seeds can be converted into oil and soap.

(iii) efficient organisation for collection of seeds.

(iv) trained personnel for technical guidance.

No systematic attempt has so far been made to determine the extent of the trees which bear non-edible oil seeds, their concentration and distribution. All that is known is that the country abounds in such trees and that the seeds, are allowed to go waste except for the comparatively small quantities collected and crushed for oil. Programmes for the organisation of soap making with non-edible oils or for the collection of non-edible oil seeds and their conversion into oil have, therefore, to be, more or less, on an experimental scale. This realization has been forced upon the Board with the experience of its endeavours during the last two and odd years. It has found it necessary to hasten slowly with its programme and has had to modify it to make it a more practical proposition. Thus, the programme provides for

(1) composite soap-making units which have oil pressing arrangements also.

(2) soap units without oil pressing arrangements, and

(3) only oil pressing units.

This arrangement facilitates the organisation of large-scale collection of the oil seeds during the season and thus provide whole-time employment for a large number of people for two or three months. Seeds so collected can either be delivered at the composite soap-making unit where crushing facilities are provided or at the oil pressing units. The objects sought to be achieved by the programme are :-

1. providing seasonal employment to large numbers of people in the collection of seeds.
2. providing work for idle ghanis by supplying non-edible oil seeds suitable for them.
3. introducing a new industry to the people in places convenient and congenial for its organisation and production, and providing additional full time work to fair numbers or people in the countryside, and
4. gradually releasing edible oils that now go into industrial uses for the consumption of the people.

It is in this perspective that the programme for soapmaking with non-edible oils has to be viewed. In order to facilitate organisation on as wide a scale as possible, the programme provides for splitting up full units into half and quarter units according to local resources and organisational abilities.

For the periods 1954-55 and 55-56, Government sanction had been accorded for a total of 80 full soap--making centres. Of these 30 have been allotted to institutions. Of these 30, fourteen are quarter units and one half unit. As yet, however, full production has not started, but it is expected that, with the proper organisation of seed-collection and supply, greater efficiency will be introduced in the units that have gone into production and the new units that are under co nstruction.

Training of supervisor-cum-chemists, oil pressing managers and apprentices is being given in Kora Kendra near Bombay and by the Maharashtra Seva Sangh in Ekhatpur. So far, between April and January this year, 124 persons have been trained and 46 new candidates are now under training.

Steps have also been taken to provide a short course of training for workers of the Intensive Area Schemes of the Board. It has been decided to have one efficient worker trained from each of these areas. Steps have already been taken in this regard.

The five production-cum-model centres started during 1953-54 continued during the period and have shown improved results. The following figures will give an idea of progress in production from April 1955 to January, 1956 :-

Total production of non-edible oil soap	4383 mds.
Quantity sold	3479 ,,
Value of quantity sold	Rs. 1,69,180

The production and sales figures may not appear impressive, but, considering the fact that it is a new industry which is just being organised, one thing stands out clearly and that is that, given the operative conditions and facilities, this is an industry which has not only a great scope for development, but also that its product has a ready market.

Expenditure already incurred by the Board is :

Grants	5,50,898
Loans	8,68,762

11. Village Pottery

The object that the Board's programme for development of village pottery seeks to attain is :

The rehabilitation of village potters in their traditional occupation.

To introduce into it new lines of production and to provide improved implements, and

Training in the use of the same.

So far, activities have been confined mainly to training and demonstrations. While training is being given in the Central Training-cum-Research Institute at Khanapur in Bombay State, training facilities have now been extended to two regional centres, one in Bhadrak in Madhya Pradesh and the other at Naduvannur in North Malabar in Madras State. It has been found from experience that the 5 months course introduced at the Khanapur Institute is too short a period for training the type of personnel required by the Board to implement its programme. This course has now been converted into a ten-months' course and the number of candidates at present undergoing training at Khanapur is 29. The regional centres have not yet started functioning, but arrangements for the purpose are nearing completion. Meanwhile, demonstration squads are being organised in order to display the improved techniques and implements at different places, and to instruct local potters in their use.

For the first time, in recent years, an All-India Conference of Potters and Pottery Workers was held in December, 1955 at Sevagram. Two hundred delegates attended the Conference. Along with the Conference an exhibition of pottery work was also held.

The amounts so far spent in furtherance of the village pottery programme is of the order of Rs. 2,58,440 of which Rs. 1,48,815 are disbursed as grants and Rs. 1,09,925 as loans.

INTENSIVE AREA SCHEME

The Intensive Area Scheme of the All India Khadi and Village Industries Board seeks to integrate village economy and life and direct them into unified and harmonious channels. The method adopted is :

> Selection of areas suitable for such development,
>
> Survey of the areas selected, and Planning for development based on the conclusions of the survey.

Each area has roughly a population of 20,000 people covering, on an average, 30 to 40 villages. Initiative and leadership are fostered among the local people through Gram Vikas Mandals and Kshetra Samitis. During 1954-55, fifteen intensive areas were sanctioned while in 1955-56, twenty more were added. Thus 35 areas have been taken up for what may be called an experiment in integrated development of village economy and life. Of these 35 areas, 14 have already gone into operation and have made steady progress. These areas are:

1. Ajagara
2. Dhanaura
3. Sahason
4. Garudeshwar
5. Gundi
6. Vedchi
7. Sagatala
8. Khadasli
9. Malpara
10. Shahpur
11. Nasik
12. Murud
13. Nemom
14. Trichur

Two village surveys have been completed. One is the survey of Raiyan village in the Ajagara area and another in the Sahason area. Both these villages are in Uttar Pradesh. Following the Raiyan Survey a Conference of Intensive Area workers was held in Ajagara in April 1955. A similar Conference is programmed to be held at Sahason in April 1956. The progress attained in the 14 areas mentioned above can be gauged from the following table :

Khadi :

No. of Charkhas introduced.	Quantity of yarn produced Mds.	No. of new looms introduced	Quantity of cloth produced (Sq. yd.)
7013	268	25	28041

In the sphere of village industries, organisational efforts continue. Four model ghani centres have been set up, while others are nearing completion. In

some of the areas, oil crushed was from the seeds brought to the centres by consumers, while in Sahason 500 maunds of oil seeds were stocked. Hand-grinders (atta chakkis) were assisted in putting on ball-bearing attachments. In all nearly 800 to 1000 ball-bearings were distributed in the progress.

In soap-making with non-edible oils in the Gundi area, 600 maunds of oil have been pressed, while in the Vedchi area 81 maunds of soap were produced. Similarly efforts are being made to introduce the village leather industry schemes of the Board in the areas, and five persons have received training.

In the Malpara area three villages have offered carcasses free to the flaying centre. In Shahpur area two co-operative societies of leather workers have been formed. The flaying centre has been started. A bone-digester has been installed and has gone into production.

In the Nasik area, hides and skins valued at Rs. 2000 were tanned and sold.

In Cottage Match industry, five workers of the intensive areas have already received training.

The Intensive Area Scheme is a new experiment and calls for specialised personnnel of different types. To get the right type of workers and to have them trained for the specialised work in the areas, great care has to be taken in selection. This naturally takes time. The experience gained as a result of the scheme in a few areas during the last one year or over, shows that sustained efforts can lead to successful organization of village economy and life in an integrated manner.

SUMMARY

This review of the activities of the All India Khadi and Village Industries Board and of the working of its schemes does not show very spectacular achievements; nevertheless it presents the experience gained, the needs of organisation and the nature of the machinery required for the implementation of programmes. Considerable field work has been done and significant experiences have resulted. These two together should pave the way for formulating programmes on a bolder and more extended scale during the next five years.

The following tables indicate the progress of expenditure, production and employment and training facilities at present available:

STATEMENT No. I

Progress of Expenditure

Industry	1953–54 Amount Sanctioned	1953–54 Amount Disbursed	1954–55 Amount Sanctioned	1954–55 Amount Disbursed	1955–56 Amount Sanctioned	1955–56 Amount Disbursed
1. Khadi	87,91,278	66,62,067	1,55,98,441	1,30,68,166	2,45,63,340	1,75,85,637
2. V. Oil	3,27,400	2,50,775	16,66,750	8,36,250	20,99,000	8,65,674
3. H.P. Rice	3,02,000	1,19,085	13,82,750	3,78,987	22,73,800	13,45,732
4. Atta-Chakki	44,750	—	70,000	55,000	2,53,000	93,995
5. Bee-keeping	2,37,295	1,36,342	3,47,575	2,19,610	9,74,600	4,48,392
6. Palm Gur	—	—	2,01,000	87,035	14,49,800	4,29,192
7. Handmade Paper	4,05,000	2,30,962	4,87,000	4,63,604	7,00,500	4,28,732
8. Soap	2,62,000	2,62,000	13,80,675	9,77,847	39,03,200	14,19,660
9. Pottery	84,720	—	1,29,500	37,175	3,83,602	2,58,440
10. Fibre	—	—	13,950	13,950	59,500	—
11. Leather	3,27,150	3,03,770	9,65,250	5,34,405	26,41,100	15,99,351
12. Match	1,91,000	27,000	3,12,425	2,98,580	16,80,500	1,32,581
13. I. Areas	—	—	5,40,000	3,77,000	16,40,000	5,44,646
14. Gur & Khandsari	—	—	1,08,850	24,000	2,18,560	—
Grand total	1,09,72,593	79,92,001	2,32,04,166	1,73,41,609	4,28,40,502	2,51,52,032

STATEMENT
Production Centres :

S.No.	Unit of production	Unit of production	No. of Centres	1953-54 Production	Value	Employment	No. of Centres
1.	Khadi (i) Commercial	Yards.	169	1,15,45,199	2,13,28,434	3,26,202	195
	(ii) Self-sufficiency	,,	—	7,10,119	11,07,687		
2.	Handpounding of Rice	B.Mds.	—	3,86,416	—	—	161
3.	Handmade Paper	Tons.	—	127	5,60,000	944	48
4.	Village Leather						
	a) Training-cum-production Centres		5	—	—	—	4
	b) Village Demonstration parties.		10	—	—	—	18
	c) Flaying centres		30	—	—	—	60
	Bone Meal	Lbs.					
	Meat Meal	,,					
	Tallow extracted	,,					
	Horns & Guts	Pairs					
	Chappals	,,					
	Leather tanned	Pieces					
5.	Bee-keeping (Honey)	Lbs.					598(b)
6.	Soap-making	mds.					22
7.	Village Oil	,,					423 Ghanis plus 34 Model Centres(f)
8.	**Gur & Khandsari**	,,					
	Gur	,,					
	Jaggeri(Cream Colour)	,,					
	Khandsari Sugar	,,					
	Molasses Gur	,,					
	Quality Raab	,,					
	Jaggery Sugar	,,					
	Gur collected by Progressive methods	,,					
9.	Palm Gur (i)	,,					
10.	Cottage Match	Gross boxes					
11.	Intensive Area						

(a) Full time (b) Part time (c) Casual Employment.

Handpounding of Rice :

(d) On the basis of average membership of 50 persons for co-operative Society, the Employment is calculated.

(e) **Village Leather** : Employment in (i) Village Demonstration Parties... 25
(ii) Flaying centres 40
65

(f) **Village Oil** :- Each model centre consists of 2 ghanis.

II
Production : Value : Employment

1954-55			No. of Centres	1955-56		
Production	Value	Employment		Production	Value	Employment
1,52,92,608	3,06,64,165	4,26,722	272	1,39,02,927	2,77,50,651	4,83,959
11,38,878	17,88,858			28,80,567	36,10,439	
4,00,276-20	—	8,000(d)	221	1,38,202-20	—	10,000(d)
400	10,15,000	1,500	71	413-36½	10,25,250	2,202
—	—	—	4	—	—	—
—	—	—	18	—	—	—
—	—	—	60	—	—	—
18,760		65(a)(b)		1,21,657		169(a)
4,526				17,267		
1,624				12,109		
404				402		
93				13,974		
2,681				7,251		
19,501		2,298(b)		32,100		3,500(b)
1,873		(b) (a) 448 plus 56	44	4,383		(b) (a) 980 plus140 plus540(c)
4,230	21,150	N.A.	5,045 Ghanis plus 58 Model Centres.(f)	50,450	2,52,250	10,932
3,80,552		26,952 (a)(b)(c)		147,271		N.A.
667				1,142		
1,124				3,016		
530				422		
				13,632		
				650		
				1,47,271		
21,39,975,29	4,27,99,500	2,40,000				
135(g)		211(b)		2,500	14,000	964(b)
						8,157(b) plus 133(a)

(g) **Cottage Match** :- Production for the period of November to March only of 1954-55year.

(h) **Abstract** :- Total employment in the All India Khadi and Village Industries Board's Central Offices and the Organisations is as follows :-

(i) Administrative Personnel ...	1,132
(ii) Technical Personnel ...	1,339
Total	2,471

(i) **Palm Gur** :- Upto February 1954, Palm-Gur was under the Ministry of Agriculture when it was transferred to Board in February 1954.

STATEMENT III

The Statement below shows the number of persons trained so far and those undergoing training at present under the Board's Centres:-

Industry.	No. of Training Centres.	Trainees Trained	Trainees under Training
1. **Khadi**	Nasik Vidyalaya	89 }	302
	Regional Vidyalayas (7)	90 }	
	Training in Salesmanship at 3 centres	84	18
	Training in Khadi (Short term courses)	1,288	370
	C. P. A. Personnel	—	136*
	Total	1,551	816
2. **Handpounding of Rice**	Training Classes and Demonstrations and Training centre at Nadiad	146	N.A.
3. **Pottery.**	Central Research-cum Training Centre	58	28
	3 Regional Training Centres	—	10
4. **Village Oil**	12 Model Centres Inspectors	49	N.A.
	3 Training Centres Mistries	76	
	Total	125	
5. **Handmade Paper**	2 Training Centres Craft Teachers	90	45
6. **Cottage Match**	Training-cum-Production Centre, Sodepur.	89	56
	Peripatetic Training Parties	131	—
	Total	220	
7. **Bee-Keeping**	17 Model apiaries } 52 School apiaries }	447	
8. **Soap**	3 Centres	145	66
9. **Leather**	5 Training-cum-Production Centres } 1 Carcass Recovery Centre }	198	
	5 Training Centres	34	56
	Total	232	112
10. **Palm Gur**	Bharatiya Tadgud Shilpa Bhavan, Dahanu.	119	N.A.
11. **Gur & Khandsari**	23 Centres	437	N.A.
	Grand Total	3 540	1,145

* The Trainees are distributed as under

1. Nasik Vidyalayas	83	(Capacity 100)
2. T. Kallupatti	34	(,, 53)
3. Ahmedabad	19	(,, 30)

The total number deputed by the C. P. A. is 183. Only 136 joined.

CONCLUSION

The implementation of the programmes and the results obtained so far should be assessed in the light of the conditions in which the Board functioned since its inception. The All India Khadi and Village Industries Board came into existence in February, 1953. Its functions were set out in the Government of India Resolution in the following terms:-

> "The Board will be responsible for preparing and organising programmes for the production and development of Khadi and Village Industries and training of personnel, manufacture and supply of equipment supply of raw materials, marketing and research and study the economic problems of different village industries."

The functions assigned to the Board are thus, comprehensive. The area of its operations extends to the whole country. It was obvious to the Planning Commission on whose express recommendations it was constituted that the Board was launched on an unchartered sea. There was no ready-to-order organisation or administrative machinery through which it could effectively enter into its tasks. The Planning Commission's Report itself did not incorporate any positive plans for the development of the industries placed under the purview of the Board. All that it recognised was the immensity of the problems and the significance of the industries to the national economy and for the social and economic regeneration of vast masses of people.

The Commission said that the Board would work in cooperation with existing and known institutions like the All India Spinners' Association, the Khadi Prathistan and others like them and co-ordinate their activities with those of State Governments in similar fields. In order to facilitate such co-ordinated organisation of work, the personnel of the Board was restricted to known constructive workers in the country who were associated with the institutions started by Mahatma Gandhi or were inspired by his contructive progrmme.

The Commission further set forth the conditions essential to create the right climate in which alone development of Khadi and other village industries would be possible. For the success of the programmes and the attainment of the objectives they should subserve, functions assigned to it would imply that it would be an autonomous body with wide discretionary and executive powers and would be free to act on its own volition without being tied down to the usual elaborate procedures. Adequate funds would be placed at its disposal by the Government of India, though for administrative convenience it would be attached to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. Though its powers and status were not defined in specific terms either by a set of rules or by a resolution of the Government, it was hoped that conventions would be established by which the Board

retain initiative and leadership.

Such were the circumstances and conditions in which the Board came into being. But, as the Board set itself to the tasks assigned to it, the realization soon came that *de-facto* it was only an advisory body and was being treated as such. Its operation was subjected to all the procedural technicalities and its programmes were treated as proposals of a subordinate department of the Secretariat. This has led to difficulties in the formulation of programmes and in evolving the appropriate organisation and machinery for their effective execution. The delays that have invariably occurred in the scrutiny of the schemes and estimates of expenditure sabmitted by the Board, from time to time, the conditions attached to sanctions and the conditions pertaining to their allotments often resulted in non-utilisation of substantial portions of the sanctioned funds.

All that needs to be said here is that the problems facing development of Khadi and Village Industries are totally different from those facing organised large-scale or small-scale industries. The former refer to a disorganised, long neglected and widely dispersed occupations and to the large numbers of resourceless people who are or were engaged in them. The outlook and approach to the problem of their rehabilitation and development are conditioned by the social and other traditional set-ups and inhibitions of the people and the occupations concerned. Accepted modes of organisation and approach, in such a case, therefore, are inappropriate. The problems are complex and many-sided and have to be attacked from different angles. Programmes for economic development, thus, have to be tied up with needs of social progress and welfare.

THE AMBAR CHARKHA MUST SUCCEED

In the December issue of "Khadi-Gramodyog", we published a brief report of the proceedings of the All India Khadi and Village Industries Board which met on December 13 and 14 in New Delhi. It was stated that among those who participated in the deliberations of the Board were the Congress President, Shri U.N. Dhebar, the Union Minister for Planning Shri Gulzarilal Nanda, and the Minister for Production Shri K.C. Reddy. In the deliberations the Ambar Charkha programme of the Board figured prominently. Shri Dhebar spoke in Hindi. Here is a free rendering of his talk in English :

"Today there is nobody in India who does not think of the country's development. The question before the country is how to increase production. Great stress is laid on it. This does not, however, mean that there are no other problems which demand attention and solution There is the unemployment problem which is grave and is growing in magnitude. There is then the question of proverty and wealth which have resulted in acute social disparities and inequalities. We have to see that these disparities do not increase further and that they are steadily eliminated. These are problems which have to be tackled effectively. There is no difference or disagreement on this. The difference arises on emphasis and methods of approach. Take the question of 'production'. It has two aspects : the social justice aspect and the technical efficiency aspect. Differing views are placed before us and we cannot ignore them. We have to think over all of them. Those who place these different and differing view-points are eager to develop the country and lead it towards progress. They are inspired by patriotism and work and for the welfare of the country. When we begin to consider these various view-points, what we find is not any basic conflict, but an emphasis on the methods of approach. But when we come to decisions we must consider the fundamentals and seek ways of reconciling these different view-points with the needs of the country and its development. Thus when we talk about production, we have to think of social justice as well. At the

same time we connot overlook the question of efficiency and economy. What is needed is a balanced approach and dispassionate thinking.

No Difference

I know that all those who are in the Khadi Board are facing this problem. They all know that when emphasis is laid on production, the human and social justice aspect is seldom stressed. They are visibly affected when their view-point, their approach and their outlook are strongly criticised. I am prepared to agree with your perspective. I cannot speak for all. I can, however, say this that so far as the Congress is concerned, there is not much difference of opinion between your Board and the Congress. It would not be right to say that efficient methods of production should subserve the needs of social justice. Your point of view was clearly placed before the A. I. C. C. A special Committee went into the whole question. Shri Vaikunthbhai was its Chairman. The Committee's report clearly brought out the relationship between technical efficiency and the social justice. There was no question of opposition to technical improvements in the tools of produtcion in cottage and village industries. The only consideration is that these improvements should not result in displacement of labour. The position was clarified when the A. I. C. C. considered the report. So also we are not against the use of power; but it could be used only again with full regard to the question of social justice. For instance, it may be used in community production. So when discussing the question of 'production' we cannot discuss it in abstract terms. All the related questions have to be taken into consideration. These questions are four:-

(1) Production,

(2) Social Justice,

(3) Technical Improvment, and

(4) The use of power.

Two Questions

So far as the Khadi industry is concerned, two questions arise; one is whether there will be any shortage of yarn if we do not increase spindleage in the mills? Can we meet the cloth needs of the country with Khadi ? When the question of shortage is raised, we must not forget that shortage existed in the country between 1942 to 1952. At that time, however, we were not in the field and we had not taken the responsibility to meet the shortage in cloth. Today we can say with responsibility that there will be no shortage, that we have the potential capacity to meet the needs of the country to a stipulated extent. The next question is; supposing such a shortage occurs, can we meet it by hand-spinning ? It is here that the conflict of opinion comes up. We have to see if the present installed capacity of the mills is enough to produce the quantity of cloth for which there. is a possible demand. Figures have been quoted to

sustain the case for expansion and against it. This controversy has created confusion in Congress circles. It is for you now to study and marshal the facts and convince the A. I. C. C. that the installed capacity to-day is sufficient and there will be no cloth shortage for another 3 or 4 years in the country.

Ambar Charkha Scheme

Now let me come to the Ambar Charkha. There have been different estimates of capacity and requirements. I would request you to go into these and formulate your final and considered proposals. While doing so, three points should be taken into consideration. These are :-

First, you should think of the organisation aspect. We have to introduce these Charkhas in all parts of the country. To what extent is this possible ?

The second point is the economics of the Ambar Charkha. This has to be worked out and presented in a clearer form.

The third point is whether you will need subsidy and to what extent. In calculating subsidy you shall have to bear in mind the financial position of the country, its commitments and the extent to which subsidy can be given."

Nanda' Speech

Shri Gulzarilal Nanda, Minister for Planning, Government of India, who participated in the discussions, said:

"You are, of course, aware of the controversy that is going on over the question of the Ambar Charkha and licensing of new mill spindleage. The question that is before us is about the place of the Ambar Charkha in the Second Five Year Plan. The current controversy invests the question with a sense of special importance and urgency. The Karve Committee has made certain recommendations in this regard. Whatever may be our reaction to this recommendation we should examine the progress we have made so far and that further progress is posible. The question is being asked whether the Ambar Charkha can provide all the additional yarn requirements of the handloom industry. This is related to the anticipated increased demand for cloth during the Second Plan period. There may be difference of opinion how quick or to what extent this increased demand would come. We need not at present go into this aspect of the matter. What the All India Khadi and Village Industries Board will have to consider is the situation in which there may be: increased demand for cloth. Let us assume that the Ambar Charkha scheme is accepted. The question then will be; Have you the capacity to meet that increased demand ? Your capacity for organising production must be stated clearly. How far can the Ambar Charkha help to meet this increased demand ?

Cloth Famine

I may, here bring to your notice cer

tain facts about the discussions that took place in a recent meeting. It was stated that if the mill spindleage is not increased there will be a famine in cloth and consequently there will be inflation. Delay in the issue of licence for new spindles would lead to undesirable consequences. Besides, we were told it takes a long time for the materialization of licensed spindles. It takes 3 to 4 years before these spindles can be obtained and are installed. I pointed out then that there was no need to take a decision immediately on the question and that we might accept the conclusion of the Karve Committee. I submitted that there was no fear of a cloth shortage in the first two years of the Second Plan and that issue of licences for new spindles could be considered at the end of 1957. I added that with the information I had, there was no fear of cloth shortage in the country, at any rate none for the next two years.

It was decided that the Commerce and Industries Minister should prepare a note on the subject and a committee should consider it. Though I was not asked to submit any note, I volunteered to prepare one. I have already presented my note. I have pointed out in the note that with the spindles already in commission and with the present installed capacity of the looms, there is no doubt that for the present at least there is no need to license new spindles and looms. I went further and suggested that spindles already licensed and in respect of which no effective steps have been taken should be cancelled. The basis for my suggestion is that we have in the country to-day enough idle capacity. Besides, spindles already licensed and in respect of which effective steps have been taken would also go into production. Considering all these, the Planning Commission has come to the conclusion that production will go up to ensure 18 yards of cloth per capita. From the figures in my possession I can say that if the proposed 2.1 million spindles are licensed, there will be no need for the introduction of the Ambar Charkha scheme. Such are the facts. But still the controversy persists.

Development Patterns

No one, of course, desires that the country should not develop and progress. All desire development. The difference, however, arises in the outlook and approach. We are told that we are going backward and in this new age we should expand modern industries and, by the utilization of efficient instruments, we can step up the income of the people and thereby capital formation would result. Goods will then be available at cheaper prices. But development can be of two kinds :

(i) the capitalist way in which the consequences and social cost are seldom taken into account and the sum total of which is that thousands of people are thrown into misery while a few get richer and richer and

(ii) the communist way. We know what it has cost in terms of humanity.

Both patterns are unacceptable to us.

Ours is the Sarvodaya way. We want that human sufferings should be eliminated. Those who are alive should live. In other countries, -Western Countries,- the population is not so acute as in our country. It is our duty to do something to keep our vast population alive and living. It we fail in this effort we will have to face serious consequences. There is no escape from them in a democracy. We have to plan for the welfare and progress of the pepole. The plan has to be framed in positive terms. There should be no vagueness about the schemes. So far your Board is concerned, you have to state clearly how many Ambar sets you will be able to manufacture and for what quantity of cloth. The increased demand for cloth is computed at 1,500 or 1,700 million yards during the Second Plan period. Can the Ambar Charkha schemes produce the yarn required for this quantity of cloth ? The questions call for a positive answer. You will work on the basis of the facts in your possession.

Enquiries have shown that it takes six months to import machinery from Japan and a little more from other countries. It may take another year or year and a half to put up the factory and installations. That is why we insist that new licences should not be issued now and that we should wait till the Ambar data is examined and a decisions is taken. My point is, that in the mean time if need be, we can run the mills i: the third shift. But all this is based on the asrumption that there will be a sudden spurt in the demand for cloth. The fact, however, is – we can safely assume it – that no radical change in demand for cloth or in the quantum of consumption is going to take place in six months.

The Ambar Charkha

Another consideration is what further improvements can be made in the present Ambar Charkha. On the basis of these improvements we will have to prepare our future programme. There should be no understatement, nor exaggeration. Let us take the average and state what the minimum production will be and what the maximum can be. The maximum production is attainable of course, only if no new licences are issued for mill spindles. It is my view that if the proposed 2. I million spindles are lincensed and they materialise, there will be no place for the Ambar Charkha at all for some years.

What is the provision made for the Ambar scheme in the Second Five Year Plan? As far as I can remember, Ambar Charkha does not figure in it. This is because the Karve Committee has made no recommendation of a positive nature. Perhaps the question has been left over for consideration after the Ambar data is collected and studied. The question, however, arises whether the cloth woven out of Ambar yarn is *Khadi*. Today

Khadi is subsidised at 3 annas to the rupee. If the Ambar Charkha yarn is used what would be the amount of subsidy required ? A provision of Rs. 23 crores has been made for the Khadi programme in the Second Five year Plan. We have to see whether this amount would be enough in case Khadi is manufactured out of Ambar yarn, or what would be the additional amount required. If this provision is found inadequate the additional requirement may be stated. We have to see what price we pay for yarn at present and whether it will be possible to reduce the cost in future when productivity and production increase.

Wealth From Waste

1	MINIMUM PER CAPITA NUTRITIONAL FAT NEEDED	: 2.00 Oz. Per Day
2	MAXIMUM AVAILABLE AT PRESENT	: 0.35 „ „
3	OILS AVAILABLE FOR EDIBLE PURPOSES	: 11,00,000 Tons
4	EDIBLE OILS USED FOR INDUSTRIAL PURPOSES	: 1,68,000 Tons
5	TOTAL NON-EDIBLE OILS WEALTH IN THE COUNTRY	: 1,50,000 Tons
6	RELEASE OF EDIBLE OILS FOR NUTRITIONAL PURPOSES	: 1,50,000 Tons
7	ADDITIONAL PER CAPITA CONSUMPTION OF EDIBLE OILS MADE POSSIBLE	: 10 Per Cent

NON - EDIBLE OIL SOAPS
HELP
BUILD HEALTH of the NATION

Read the booklet on the Subject Rs. (0-4-0)

The Future Is With Ambar Charkha

"None is opposed to it. As far as I am aware, no one is against it. As many of Ambar Chakhas as possible say one, two, ten or even fifty lakhs - should be manufactured and plied."

–Jawaharlal Nehru

The following is an English rendering of the recorded Hindi talk of Prime Minister Shri Jawaharlal Nehru with Shri Kanu Gandhi. The meeting took place in New Delhi on December 30, last :

How is it running this Ambar Charkha ?

There is one point to be considerd. After it is manufactured and distributed, who will undertake the repairs if any of its parts becomes defective ?

What I mean to say is that you should make it as faultless as possible. But its good servicing is also very essential. If you give it to the people for plying it, any slight defect in it will bore them and they will lose their interest in it as happens in the case of anything. For this reason, you must make arrangements that some one or the other should go on a tour for some period, say some months one year or even two years–and look to the repairs of Amber Charkhas. Once a thing gets going, people become accustomed to if. If it fails in the very beginning, people lose enthusiasm and faith in it. Therefore, servicing of Ambar Charkha is a vital point.

Our first task is to manufacture the Ambar Charkha, distribute it and spread it far and wide, besides providing its raw materials. These are the various factors connected with it. But the most important factor is organisation.

I am confident that, after we manufacture the Ambar Charkha and it starts working, as generally happens, many improvements can be made through practical experience. And I am confident that the Ambar Charkha will thus gradually get improved.

We read about some controversies in the newspapers since some time. They give an impression that some people are antagonistic to the Ambar Charkha. This is not true at all. No one is opposed to it. As far as I am aware, no one is against it. The controversy that is raging has no connection with it. They are entirely extraneous. What I mean to say is that as many number of Ambar Charkhas as possible — say one lakh, two lakhs, ten lakhs, fifty lakhs should be manufactured, put into use and all the

yarn produced by them utilized.

Sometimes the argument is raised that the supply of cloth may not be able to meet the demand that is fast rising. No doubt, the rise in the demand for cloth is a happy sign. It is with the rise in income and consequently in the standard of living that such a demand arises. But, in the prevailing conditions of our country, the question does not arise as half the population is almost naked even today. If crores of people begin to use cloth to cover their body even partially, then alone the demand will rise.

The other question is, as some people apprehend, that it may so happen that the people may be having money to spend and there may be demand for cloth but it may not be available. Such a situation will result in a rise in the prices of cloth. It will affect the poor people. Besides, the cost of all other articles will also rise. It will indeed be a terrible thing. But this situation is not going to arise because whatever the number of Ambar Charkhas that may be distributed and whatever be the quantity of cloth manufactured out of the yarn produced by them, it will all be consumed.

The production of cloth from Ambar Charkha yarn is a factor within our control. We can adjust it to our needs by reducing the production by half or one-fourth. All that is possible. We need not enter into a controvery about it. The real task before us about the Ambar Charkha is that we should make it faultless and perfect instead of diverting our energy in fruitless discussion.

The Ambar Charkha is after all a machine and has to be improved upon. It can be done through practical experience and by our expert engineers and technicians. Our engineers have not paid any attention to it. Instead, they are engrossed in big machines. If they devote their attention to Ambar Charkha, they may find some points to improve upon. Whatever big machinery we see today have all been made faultless by gradual improvement through practical experience. It will be more useful if those technicians working with these heavy machines give their suggestions for the improvement of the Ambar Charkha. These improvements are not possible through mere theoretical knowledge.

Thus, after perfecting Ambar Charkha, it has to be manufactured on a large scale and then it has to be spread gradually among the people. What I mean by gradual spreading is that we have to take care that it is plied wherever it is distributed. This campaign has to be organised on a country-wide scale and it is a great task indeed. I am confident that we can achieve our goal through the Ambar Charkha. One difficulty with the ordinary charkha was that it could not stand in competition. But Ambar Charkha has no such difficulty. It holds out bright hopes for us.

I do not see any objection to its being run, if not now at least later on,

by power. But for that power should be available in every home. We have also to keep in view that this does not adversely affect the masses by giving a blow to their crafts. If the people can produce more of Ambar Charkha yarn in their homes, keeping the above point in view, they can do so. But this question does not arise so long as electricity is not available in every home. Even if we do it, the number of houses will not be very large."

ALL INDIA KHADI & VILLAGE INDUSTRIES BOARD

Central Government Building, 2nd Floor,
101, Queen's Road, BOMBAY-1.

LIST OF PUBLICATIONS

ENGLISH

1.	Second Five Year Plan (Khadi & V. I.)	...	Rs. 5 0 0
2.	Planning for Full Employment	....	Rs. 1 8 0
3.	Annual Report 1953-54	...	Rs. 1 0 0
4.	Building From Below	...	Rs. 1 0 0
5.	Hand-made Paper Industry	....	Rs. 0 4 0
6.	Village Oil Industry	...	Rs. 0 4 0
7.	What's What in Bee-Keeping	...	Rs. 0 4 0
8.	Where to Start Bee-keeping	...	Rs. 0 4 0
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10.	Village Leather Industry	...	Rs. 0 4 0
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POSSIBILITIES OF VILLAGE EXCHANGE SCHEME

(*SHRI R. N. BOSE, I. A. S.*)

It is being increasingly realised that production is the vital factor in our economic life and whatever stimulates production, specially in the rural industries of this vast under-developed country, is bound to create favourable conditions of progress in our present circumstances. To stimulate production, the villagers require capital and if there is some amount of capital assistance, the next problem is of disposal of the goods produced. It has been said: "Artisans and craftsmen cannot produce more because they cannot dispose of any more of their products at a price which will be worth their while."

It would be seen, therefore, that the burden of money on our rural industry is two-fold:

Firstly, village artisans are too poor to raise capital themselves, and

Secondly, they are unable to dispose of whatever they produce outside the village or even in it.

This leads to a sort of vicious circle.

When a method is, therefore, suggested by which the burden of money can be partially lifted, production can be automatically balanced, unemployment can be eliminated and economic independence can be ensured to some extent, it is necessary to consider the method not only on its theoretical merits, but also regarding its feasibilities.

The Keynote

The keynote of the village exchange is extra production on a multilateral basis for mutual exchange. Money is not involved in this transaction. Yet there is a difference from barter, for the value of articles exchanged is measured in terms of money and credit is given for any balance due out of this transaction. So, in some ways, it is a scheme of credit exchange where credit has nothing to do with money at all.

The belief that a nation's wealth is its capacity for production rather than its gold, is gaining ground. Ruskin stressed long ago how labour means wealth and so did Gandhiji. When we cling to our old prejudices because they are familiar, we are apt to forget that there was a time in the history of mankind when there was wealth of some sort, but not of the sort we know

today. It is, therefore, interesting to know that in our villages men and women are attempting to do without currency or money by directly exchanging commdities each for the other.

So far, however, the economy is mixed and only the value of the articles is measured in terms of money. Nor are these village communities autonomous and self-supporting by mutual exchange. Here an exchange scheme has just struck root, but has not yet developed sufficiently in the area of operation. Besides, the village continues to sell some goods in the same quantities as before and also to buy likewise from the outside world. It is presumed, however, that as extra production for domestic exchange turns to substitute its goods for those purchased from outside, the village will tend to purchase more of raw material and less of finished products. Besides, it is expected that the satisfaction of needs through the exchange of products results in the saving of cash, and the money so realised goes into improving tools and equipments. Thus the scheme tackles at the same time the problem of capital formation and marketing. In fact, what limits production today is the lack of capital, lack of purchasing power (not in monetary but in real terms), and the size of the market.

Man and Mammon

There is no end to human wants, though there must be lack of purchasing power in a poor country. If every producer becomes a consumer and vice-versa, the greatest manifestation of social energy will be possible, though a man need not be measured in terms of his money. At present most men try and are certainly encouraged to make money to save money and sometimes our greatest honours go to men who have never done productive work at all. In this village scheme such standards of conduct and judgment will, perhaps, not be appreciated.

It is too early to say whether in such a village society individuals will work by themselves entirely as individuals or as a network of groups of various and varying kinds. In order to live, this villager needs, for instance, rice, potatoes, clothes, milk and house. For these commodities there may be different groups of producers - Group 'A' producing rice, Group 'B' growing potato, Group 'C' being milkmen, Group 'D' being weavers, while Group 'E' may be house-builders. There would be another group needed to make the picture complete if such economic groups can exchange their commodities to discover the most favourable outlet of human energy. There may be another group of cultural and social service workers who will teach, serve and meet the social and cultural requirements.

In the village scheme so far envisaged, the present shape of things is not basically altered. Only the fundamental economic problem is attacked and producers in different lines of enterprise in the village are brought together, so that

the extra product of each can be adjusted with the extra product of others on the basis of their mutual requirements. Autonomy and self-sufficiency are not in the programme.

The Present System

Hence, there is the criticism that the inherent limitations of this scheme may not evoke so much enthusiasm, but, as the workers in the village scheme themselves point out, "there is no end to human wants and as soon as we have supplied our needs with the articles we are now making, we shall want better articles". Thus the scheme carried a method of exchange of commodities where men will not have to wait to save money before they can make purchases. In such an economic system, it is necessary for each consumer to produce the purchasing power depending upon the exchange values of what he has produced. As soon as he has found a customer for his goods, he will be entitled to receive an amount of purchasing power reflected by the exchange value of goods; no more, no less. On this idea, our economic system has been founded. But, it has generally been found that the following results emerge if commodities are exchanged in the way they have been historically exchanged by barter or modified barter:

(1) Producers of commodities who begin by owing the means of production, lost their possession of them.

(2) Producers of commodities split into two groups : employers and employees.

(3) There emerges a group of persons who enjoy the possession of purchasing power by virtue of owning stocks and this group, in the long run, dominates the economic life of the society.

(4) It becomes a part of inherited tradition that one man lives on the product of other man's labour without necessarily doing anything in return.

This historical analysis shows how in a modern society capital has at length appeared and now dominates the scene. In the Middle Ages, there was no capital in the modern sense, though there was undoubtedly stock-in-trade. The only difference in fundamental is that there was no planned approach as in the present scheme.

Two Questions

The question, therefore, is whether the process of history is to some extent being reversed in going back to exchange of commodities in the villages like the exchange of stock-in-trade ages. The other question is whether the store of wealth in the village, including wealth in the form of labour, can be turned to more profitable use in the usually accepted ways where villagers can offer their labour and commodities for hire or for sale.

A partial remedy by way of exchange of goods has been indicated. This, thou-

gh similar to barter, differs from it, as the goods exchanged are assessed for their value in money at market rates. Besides, this extra output may be also disposed of outside the village in the competitive market when local consumption is satisfied. Most of all, the conscious planning and also the voluntary acceptance of modified barter scheme will basically alter the whole outlook.

But, the village exchange fundamentally emphasises village industry and regionalism in economic planning, and so the question is whether in the context of our unused and undeveloped economic resources village industry can play an important part.

Basic Values

Now, all economic thought presupposes a scheme of basic values, and they, as implicit in the idea of village exchange, are enumerated below :

(1) Labour in the villages is within limits, a life-giving force and sustaining influnce.

(2) Every individual in a village has within him potentialities for growth. Social planning must be so devised as to bring out these potentialities for production.

(3) Decentralisation of production is urgently necessary, even though in a mixed economy there must always be some centralised production.

(4) As far as possible, carftsmen in villages should have no difficulty in practising their craft.

(5) In itself, money has no special power, but it is a symbol that assists the exchange of commodities.

(6) If the money-system is not fully effective, barter or modified barter will serve its purpose equally well. It is an erroneous idea that before human energy can be exerted money would be forthcoming.

Now, with all these basic factors, the shape of village exchange of commodities can be better outlined. It is possible that commodity exchange may work not uniformly, but by seasonable variations. As an eminent economist has pointed out, the raw materials imported from outside the village are necessary for most of the production and how is this to be paid for is a problem, though the number of transactions could be multiplied to any extent and they could be of any size.

But here capital assistance from outside for phased industrial extention may help. In any case, in the mixed village economy, money, as a medium, will work to stop the gap wherever needed, though the petrification of money or making a fetish of it is avoided.

—Courtesy :

A. I. C. C. Economic Review

INDIA AND THE MACHINE

IS IT TO BE GOD OR DEVIL?

(WILFRED WELLOCK)

Rapid industrial development in the East on Western lines is a matter of grave concern to many in the West who had to face two World Wars as a result of the industrial revolution. Mr. Wellock who has been warning the east of the perils of imitating the soulless mechanical industrialisation of the West has sent us this special article for 'Sarvodaya' at the suggestion of a discussion group in England of which Mr. Wellock is a member.

Prime Minister Nehru, when opening the Indian Industrial Fair last October, stated that the machine had brought the world to an age of potential if not actual abundance. There was therefore no further need for conflict. India was on the threshold of an Industrial Revolution, yet even before she crossed it there loomed up the atomic revolution. The machine was inevitable, but if it led to unemployment new avenues of employment should be discovered. Mr. Nehru then added: "The big machine was both God and Devil at the same time. What was needed was to extract its god-like qualities."

Those words of Mr. Nehru describe exactly what is happening in the West to-day. In the West, especially in America, but also, in a less degree, in Britain and Western Europe, there is abundance. This abundance is now being assured by automatic machinery. The extension of automation naturally causes unemployment, but by practising what is now called an "expanding economy" new gadgets are invented, the mass production of which absorbs the unemployment caused by automation.

To this prosess of an expanding economy there would appear to be no end. In the U.S.A., where automation is most advanced, living standards are double those of any other country, and probably thirty times higher than those of India, for instance.

Two questions arise here. First, are these high and everrising living standards good for makind, and second, can they continue indefinitely?

Is The Ever-Rising Standard Of Living Good?

On the first question all the facts go to show that abundance does not insure or even lead to happiness and well-being. The time always comes when for reasons of health and well-being we must distinguish between sufficiency

and surplus or over-abundance. In America there is over-abundance, and thus over-spending, over-eating, over-dressing and an over-rating of gadgets. In regard to food wastage, in one area an official examination of the bins into which the people throw their unwanted goods, it was ascertained that the wastage of food averaged 18 pounds per week for a family of four persons. Discarded clothing, toys, gadgets etc. reach fantastic totals.

As these conditions would indicate, abundance is not attended by contentment and moderation. People develop devouring tendencies, and increasingly look to spending and consuming for their reliefs, pleasures and entertainment. Accordingly they are never satisfied, never contented, but restless, in need of change, buying something or going somewhere. They thus become the easy victims of advertising, so that with all their big incomes they have never enough. Hence getting more and more money becomes their chief concern, Even so they own spend by means of hirepurchase; thus mortgaging considerable percentages of future earnings to the extent of many years. Then, when debt begins to hang over them like a heavy cloud they become depressed and wonder if ever they will regain their freedom, and what will happen to their hire-purchase belongings should unemployment or sickness or death overtake them or their families.

I have seen all these tendencies in operation in the U. S. A. in recent years, and now they are spreading with great rapidity in Britian, also and in Western Europe.

Can the Expanding Economy Continue ?

I now come to the second question: can this expanding economy continue indefinitely ?

I do not think it can, either from the moral or the material standpoint. Today the United States is using almost as much raw material of all kinds as the rest of the world taken together. She has six time more motor cars than the rest of mankind. Indeed she is using up her own natural resources so rapidly that she is calling upon external sources at an ever-increasing rate.

To-day American political leaders are holding up the American way of life as the sure means of saving the world from Communisn. But what would happen if the whole world were from now on to concentrate on attaining America's living standards? For how long would the natural resources required be forthcoming ? No one knows. The issue has never been faced. What is clear, is that before very long the international scramble for the monopolistic control of vital supplies would be such as to threaten war very soon. Consider the oil supplies, for example, and the conflict that is now raging in the Middle East for thier possession. What would be the situation should the demand for oil be doubled or trebled during the next ten years as well it might, were materialism to spread as it now threatens to do, to the ends of the earth.

Then there is the question of markets. Raw materials must be bought by means of exports. Yet to day the competition for markets, or the sale of exports in order to buy vital raw materials, is becoming as fierce as it was in 1914 and in 1939. This issue of markets for exports is Britain's biggest problem at present, and before long it will be America's biggest problem. Moreover, as the under-developed countries, industrially speaking, step up their industrial production, and eventually make their own machinery, they will import less while they will want to retain for their own use raw materials which now they are selling to the Western Powers.

It may well be, therefore, that while the East develops and prospers, the West will be faced with unemployment and economic breakdown, followed by the spread ef Communism and possibly the third world war.

This is the vicious circle into which a materialistic civilization inevitably drives nations. It is the logical conclusion of an expanding economy, which thinks only in terms of material advancement.

The Devil In The Machine

To use Mr. Nehru's phrase, this result is the Devil in the machine. The product of the machine has become more important than the human beings who serve it. More and more goods, but more and more robots, human beings robbed of their creative functions, repetitive workers whose labour is monotonous, tedious and unsatisfying. Hence they work for money only and are thus transformed into materialists. Their lives tend to be made up of earning and spending money. Thus man, made in the image of God, and intended for creative labour, is transformed into a machine, or mass man, a mere devourer of wealth in what is essentially a materialistic civilisation.

I am not opposed to the power machine, but it must not be allowed to become God, add to deprive men of the right to develop as whole human beings, body, mind and spirit. Man has always perfected his tools, and I belive there is a place even for the automatic machine, but the emphasis in production must always be on quality, distinction, character and beauty. It is man's privilege to make beautiful homes, inspiring neighbourhoods and nations composed of an infinite veriety of small communities, each community with a character and spirit of its own, due to the nature of the local genius.

The Right To Creative Living

The right to creative living is the right to become a whole, or fully developed, person; and the right and liberty to live as a whole person is more important than the right to become rich, which in the West often tends to become the primary freedom. In the West, the aim to become rich has led to machine worship whence the machine becomes God and man descends to the sub-human

level and becomes a robot, or mass-man. The outcome is giant machines, giant business concerns, and giant cities. Whereas with few exceptions, machines, workshops and communities should be small, as only then has the common man a chance to develop, to express his soul, his imagination and emotion in his daily labour.

India, on the threshold of her industrial revolution, must now decide whether the machine is to resist man to develop his creative or God-like powers, or force him into the slavery of sub-human functioning. Water may be stored, electricity be generated and iron and steel be produced, by great works. What is important is that the water, the electricity and the iron and steel shall in the main be sent into her villages, where human genius in its infinite variety of manifestations may express the grandeur and the exuberance of the human spirit : in productions of great beauty to serve and delight the people of India for generations, and lustre to her name through the ages, and in the process achieve a level of culture in her democracy which will enable her to play her maximum part in saving civilisation from uttar destruction in nuclear warfare.

The issue : God or Devil in the machine, is the outstanding issue in India today !

— Courtesy 'Sarvodaya'

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CONCEPT OF PROGRESS

(By: VAIKUNTH L. MEHTA)

There is scarcely any subject over which we shall find such varied views expressed as about the concept of progress. Opinions will hence be purely personal. An objective presentation of what progress connotes would be welcome but would, I consider, be extremely difficult to provide.

Secondly, in speaking about progress I place upon myself the limitation that it is mainly material advancement that should be the subject of this talk. In India, until recent times it was spiritual advancement to which the greatest of our leaders of thought devoted their attention. That advancement was to be sought by individuals. Probably, the only exception was when Bhagwan Buddha—the 2500th anniversary of whose birth we shall be celebrating this year-preached his gospel not for the benefit of the few but for that of the whole of humanity.

Thirdly, I would like to examine the concept of progress not in the abstract nor in terms of mankind all over the world, but in concrete terms for India as we find it today. A modern utopia was conceived of not only by H.G. Wells; in all countries in all times, social philosophers have outlined utopias of their conception. The difference between such utopias and modern planning mainly lies in the fact that, while the former usually visualize a transformation of conditions in theoretical terms for all times and for all climes, planning as we now understand it is intended to provide for such transformation for a particular region and within a definite period of time, to be effected with the aid of resources, moral and material, that are within the capacity of the community in the region to command. This talk is, however, not a dissertation on planning. It is conceivable that progress may be achieved without there being any definite plan for the purpose. But modern communities have come to believe that, in material terms, advance towards a goal is quicker and cheaper if undertaken in a deliberate systematic manner. Hence in speaking of progress in India today one cannot avoid a mention of our plan.

Condition for Progress

Life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness—these represent the minimum desiderata for a community, Leaving out of consideration the means of protecting life and liberty, it is the pursuit of human happiness that should be the first concern of those planning for progress. Happiness is an abstract term, but one can spell it out, materialistically, as the ensuring

to every human being in India the right to a livelihood. Neither life nor liberty is worth anything to him unless he has the opportunity of keeping body and soul together properly, which he can do only if he can get food, can clothe his nakedness and can have a place to rest his head in. To my mind, the progress of a community is dependent on the extent to which the number of individuals who are denied these gets constantly reduced, almost to a vanishing point.

Taking conditions as they are in India today, it becomes necessary for us to see that those who stay in villages and those whose livelihood depends on the land are enabled to get their minimum needs in respect of food, clothing and shelter fairly met. These sections of the community constitute nearly three quarters of our total population—82 per cent and 69.8 per cent, respectively, to be precise. To raise the output of the land, by measures such as figured in the First Five Year Plan and should be intensified in the second one, must be our first objective. Without entering into details, I would put in a plea here for a rapid expansion of the programme of minor irrigation works and of the extension of schemes of soil conservation and dry farming to all areas dependent for cultivation on a low average rain-fall.

Drive For Credit

These measures for increased agricultural production have to be supplemented for the purpose in view by the adoption of a vigorous drive for the promotion of co-operative effort for credit, supply and maketing so that the tiller of the soil can retain, in the bulk, the fruits of his labour a good portion of which now goes to the trader and the money-lender. From the point of view of securing additional production it may be desirable, moreover, to increase the unit of cultivation by encouraging those engaged in cultivating small-sized farms to go in for joint or co-operative farming. Such effort must be encouraged and stimulated, the form of organization adopted being such as brings out the best in the producers.

When such rationalization takes place in our agricultural industry, one consequence may be a reduction in the number of persons engaged on the land. As it is, the numbers who are unemployed or under-employed in relation to the agricultural industry is extremely large. One of the principal reasons for our backward rural economy is the depressing influence exercised by the land having to bear the burden of supporting a large mass of dependants. Work has to be found for these persons who, under our pre-British economy, were wholly or partially engaged in various industries ancillary to agriculture that provided the consumers' goods in demand locally. For raising the standard of life for the bulk of the population. who, as I have noted above, dwell in the countryside, it is absolutely essential that they should be provided with work so that

the nation as a whole can have a progressive economy. Progress in the sense of the assurance of the minimum needs of life as defined above is, I take the view, incapable of achievement unless this is done.

Lift Them Up

A cognate problem is the condition of the underprivileged sections of society, belonging mostly to the scheduled tribes and scheduled castes. No effort is too great to enable those belonging to these sections of the community to come up to the educational, social and economic levels of the rest of the population. Just as a rise in the aggregate national income is of little significance from the point of view of progress unless that rise is accompanied by equitable distribution of income and wealth, so also the establishment of huge research institutes, the creation of new Universities and the starting of more Arts and Law Colleges does not connote progress to me unless simultaneouesly there is widespread diffusion of education among the poorest strata of society. For this purpose, the prevailing system of primary education in rural areas especially, may itself have to undergo changes and the cost of such education may go up considerably.

It is not only modern saints but even the ancient seers who attach as much value to physical cleanliness as to purity of the heart. One of directives that Acharya Vinoba Bhave addresses to those aspiring for the establishment of a Sarvodaya society is to attend to "अन्तः शुद्धि" as much as to "बहि : शुद्धि". To have a clean mind in a clean body is a piece of advice as applicable now as it was when originally offered. Among the five giants we have to overcome on the road to human happiness, Lord Beveridge includes dirt, slovenliness and uncleanliness which are responsible for the emergence of another giant to be fought, namely, disease.

Village Sanitation

Inasmuch as the bulk of our people live in villages, these centres of population have to be kept neat and clean, and the obligation to do so should rest not on a section of the population but on all. Our country is, unfortunately, unique in relegating this duty to a separate caste such as the *bhangis*. In a progressive society there should be no place for a caste such as that of *bhangis*, either in villages or in towns or in cities. Among the matters affecting daily life in which Mahatma Gandhi interested himself was devising the best means of removing human excreta. The methods devised under his directions may serve this social purpose of improving sanitary conditions in villages. They may suit small towns. For large congregations of population, other methods including chemical and mechanical devices have to be resorted to. The responsibility will have to be shared between householders and the local authorities. This reform will certainly involve expenditure. So urgent, however, is the need to eliminate the *bhangi* as a

class that I would advocate the highest priority being accorded to the provision of such expenditure as part of a planned programme.

Although the average per capita income of the country as a whole is Rs. 285, the average earnings of an agricultural labourer to which category belong large sections of the scheduled tribes and castes, is Rs. 107. Unless this level of earnings is raised substantially there can be no meaning in progress, much less can there be any value attached to our desire to rise towards a socialist pattern of society. A socialistic form of social organisation postulates equitable distribution to ensure which the structure of our agricultural and industrial organisation has to undergo transformation. In the first place, work has to be found for all able-bodied men and women. That will reduce the number of earning dependants and non-earners and help to raise the per capita income. Secondly, labour should cease to be a commodity in the disposal of which any man can make a gain. The sole beneficiary should be the toiler himself. In other words, increasingly public works such as construction of roads, buildings, bridges, canals or work in forests should be carried on with labour provided by co-operative societies composed of the workers themselves.

Aim of Progress

Progress thus viewed seems to represent to me a move towards an equalitarian society. It is only under such a social order that human beings can have a sense, first of security and then, of well being. The economic developments that have taken place since the beginning of this century, have led to the disruption of only rural economy and stimulated a flow of population from the countryside to towns and cities. The result has been haphazard unregulated urbanization and industrialization which have resulted in the growth of slums and the emergence of social evils that are a blemish on our civilization. That way certainly does not lie progress. Progress demands that we recognise that the paramount factor in our social economy is the dweller in the countryside. Having done so, we have to plan to build up an agrarian and industrial system which provides social security for him and promotes his moral and material welfare.

In seeking progress along the lines indicated it is not unlikely that some sections of the community that are well-off may find that they are called upon to work harder, or to stint themselves and save, or occasionally to bear heavier burdens. They may have to forego the pleasure of adding to the conveniences, the amenities, the comforts and the privileges they enjoy which are altogether outside the ken or the reach of the many. They have to reconcile themselves to the thought of progress being measured in terms of a march all along the line

with no stragglers to remain uncared for. That may mean a deferring of personal or sectional advancement. If this is a sacrifice, that sacrifice is worthwhile because of the joy it will bring through the feeling of satisfaction that we are accelerating the pace of progress, moral and material, for large numbers of our underprivileged fellow-citizens. (Courtesy AIR, Bombay)

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Parishramalaya Completes One Year

The first annual general meeting of the Kherwadi Social Welfare Association was held at the Parishramalaya at Kherwadi on Sunday the 5th February, 1956. Shri B.G. Kher presided. The annual report which was adopted by the meeting said:–

In 1928 when Shri B. G. Kher first visited Kherwadi it was a small village known as "Chamdewala-ki-wadi" or Tanner's Colony, east of Khar Railway Station. The poor residents of the locality were doing tanning, leather making or manual work and living in temporary insanitary structures. They were then nearly 2,000. Shri Kher, along with Shri. C. B. Kora and Shri S. V. Kini, formed a Committee known as "Kherwadi Committee" to ameliorate their conditions. The Committee secured from Government a plot of land in Kherwadi and constructed two structures for a primary school for both the Hindi and Marathi sections of the population. A free dispensary was also built for the residents and was placed in charge of Dr. Deenbandhu. This was fully availed of by the people. Other social welfare activities included the starting of a Library and Reading Room, adult eduction classes and village cleaning.

Both the primary school and the dispensary have now been transferred to the Bombay Municipal Corporation and are managed by it, the latter being in charge of a medical graduate. A town planning scheme has been sanctioned and is being worked out satisfactorily.

Since December, 1954.

In December, 1954 the Kherwadi Social Welfare Association was constituted with a view to continue the work of ameliorating the living conditions of not only the residents of Kherwadi but also of the neighbouring slum localities on the east of Western Railway between Bandra and Santa Cruz, viz. Naupada, Phulwadi, Jawaharnagar and Golibar. The population of all these localities, including Kherwadi. is estimated to be about 20,000. The population has increased fast, but the localities are sadly lacking in the amenities of civilised life. A Memorandum of Association with Rules and Regulations was drafted and the Association was registered with the Registrar of Companies on 8th January, 1955 under the Societies Registration Act, XXI of 1860 and with the Charity Commissioner on 27th April, 1955 under the Bombay Public Trusts Act. It took over the social welfare work with assets, etc. from the Kherwadi Committee.

Executive Council

The following gentlemen set themselves up as office-bearers and members

of the first Executive Council of the Association :-

Dewan Bahadur K. M. Jhaveri (President).

Prof. V. G. Rao (Vice-President).

Shri B. G. Kher.

Shri V. K. Tembe.

Shri Indavadan H. Oza, M. L. A.

Shri Ambalal S. Parikh.

Dr. Deenbandhu.

Shri Indulal H. Shah (Treasurer).

Shri G. K. Rao (Secretary).

Later Shri V. L. Mehta and Janab Amangool Khan were co-opted as members. The Committee will continue in office for 3 years. The first three gentlemen named above are also trustees of the Association's assets. Shri M. V. Falnikar has unfailingly responded to our invitation to attend the Executive Council meetings and helped us greatly in our work.

Parishramalaya

On 14th January, 1955 (Makara Sankranti) Shri Morarji R. Desai, Chief Minister of Bombay, paid a visit to Kherwadi. A large gathering had assembled and the idea of building a Work and Welfare Centre to be known as Parishramalaya was mooted before him and he wished it well. On 6th March, 1955, the foundation stone of the Parishramalaya was laid by Shri M. M. Naik - Nimbalkar, Minister for Public Works Department on the plot reserved for a Civic Centre in the Kherwadi scheme. It consists of a spacious hall 60' x 30' and of a store room, an office room, a living room, kitchen and bath room. It was completed in two months on account of the co-operation and hard work of the residents and opened on 6th May, 1955 by Shri Kedarnathji. Later a soap unit was added, the first soap bhatti having been lighted by Shri V. L. Mehta on 1st August.

The aim of the Parishramalaya movement is to relieve unemployment by providing work, means of sustenance and training facilities to able-bodied, willing but unemployed or under-employed workers, young or old, men or women. The programme is to provide such workers with means of sustenance during the period of training, tools and appliances of work, training facilities so as to improve the quality of work and help in realising the joy and dignity of labour. Where land is available, agriculture, and elsewhere cotton and wool spinning and weaving and incidental processes, leather work, soap-making, oil-pressing, paddy husking and such other industries suitable to the conditions of the locality would be taken up. Such Parishramalayas will ultimately become multi-purpose co-operatives.

Kherwadi, being in the neighbourhood of Bandra slaughter house, and the people of the locality having been working for a number of years in woolcleaning, spinning and weaving, provides

a very suitable avenue of work and have been undertaken. Very good cloth of wool and blankets are being produced and as many as 31 women have been spinning cotton and wool and receiving wages. The total amount disbursed on this account up to 31st December, 1955 was Rs. 251-10-6. A soap-making unit has been started with a subsidy from the All India Khadi and Village Industries Board and soap is being made from non-edible oils. The over-all supervision of these industrial activities is with Dr. Deenbandhu, a member of the Executive Council. He has been deputed by the All-India Khadi and Village Industries Board for this work. We are grateful to the Board for lending us his services. He is assisted in the work by Shri Ganpatram Balooram, Shri Jairam Deendayal and other honorary workers from Kherwadi itself.

A proposal for restarting the work of tanning and leather making on co-operative lines with the residents of Kherwadi as members and for making use of the Government building for the purpose which is lying unused at present is under the consideration of the Joint Registrar, Industrial Co-operatives.

Government started a three months class in wool spinning and weaving on 5th August and from 1st December, this was supplemented by a peripatetic school where in 12 trainees will be trained for a period of one year. These trainees are paid by Government a monthly stipend of Rs. 20. The first batch of trainees consists of 6 boys and 6 girls. The school will continue in Kherwadi for two years in the first instance.

To house the peripatetic school and its equipment a new building—Urna Ghar (House for Wool)—is being built by the Association. Its foundation stone was laid by Shri P. R. Nayak, Municipal Commissioner, on 14th November, 1955 and it is expected to be completed shortly. A suitable rent for its use will be paid to the Association by Government.

Cultural and Other Activities

The 6th May 1955 on which day the Parishramalaya was opened was the Buddha Jayanthi day. In the evening on that day, therefore, a 'Vaisakhi' celebration meeting was held at the Parishramalaya under the presidentship of Shri Harekrishna Mehtab, Governor of Bombay, and a very interesting paper in Hindi on the life and teachings of Lord Buddha was read by Shri Sunit B. Kher, Bar-at-Law. Since then every Sunday at 9 a. m. a talk is being given on the life and teachings of a saint by some one well versed in the subject. So far we have had 25 such talks. The purport of these talks is being published regularly in the monthly *Dharm Chakra* and we thank the Editor, Prof. N. K. Bhagwat, for his kindness in doing so.

The Association also organised a Gram Safai Week on the 2nd October, Mahatmaji's birthday, and cleaning work was done in Kherwadi throughout

the week with the help of a large number of school and college students. Particular mention must be made in this connection of the services rendered by the batch of Seva Sadan primary school lady teacher-trainees who worked in Kherwadi at this time regularly every day for a fortnight, especially amongst the women and children. Such work is also part of the Association's work of carrying on social welfare work and social service among the inhabitants, inculcating habits of sanitary living, duties of citizenship and imparting social education by visual aids and other means. The students of the Tata Institute of Social Sciences are making a social survey of Kherwadi from 1928 onwards, particularly with reference to the Khatik group of residents.

We take this opportunity to thank Swami Sembuddhananda of Ramakrishna Mission, Khar, and Dr. Machave of the Blind Relief Association for their kindness in supplying us with milk powder, ghee and wheat products donated by charitable persons in U. S. A. With the help of lady workers we have been supplying milk, ghee, etc. to the children of Kherwadi and the neighbouring localities. We have also been able to persuade the Muncipal authorities to supply milk from Aarey Colony to the school childern on every Sunday morning.

Access To The Localities

Access to Kherwadi and the neighbouring localities is by no means easy. A particular difficulty in this connection is that there are two level crossings on the only road connecting the Western side of the railway line with the east. As the result of prolonged correspondence with the railway authorities and the visit of Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri, Railway Minister, to Kherwadi on 21st June, 1955, the hardship has been greatly reduced as the level crossings are now not kept closed for more than a few minutes at a time. We are grateful to the Railway Minister for his help in easing the situation.

The Municipal authorities have also been good enough to repond to our appeal for better roads in the localities. A new road is now under construction leading to the Parisharamalaya and thence to the road coming from the foot of the railway foot-bridge near Khar station-the only nearest means of access on foot to Kherwadi and Jawaharnagar. The latter road belonging to the Westarn Railway is also being metalled. All this is opening up the locality considerably and will help in slum clearance,

A proposal submitted by the residents of Kharwadi for building houses on a co-operative basis is under the consideration of Government.

Post Office

The need of a Post Office for the residents of the localities was keenly felt and after some correspondence, the

postal authorities were kind enough to open a Post Office in Kherwadi on 22nd July, 1955. As a rented building for the purpose was not ready till the beginning of this year, the Association allowed the Post Office to be located in its office room in the Parishramalaya free of rent. The Post Office has shifted to its rented premises from 3rd January, 1956. This amenity is greatly appreciated by the residents of Kherwadi and Jawaharnagar, as hitherto they had to go a long way for any Post Office transaction.

Rural Life Conference

Under the auspices of the Association a Rural Life Conference was held at the end of October in Kora Kendra under the presidentship of Shri Vaikunth L. Mehta. It was inaugurated by Shri Morarji Desai, Chief Minister of Bombay, who also opened the Exhibition relating to village cleanliness, village industries and social education held along with the Conference. The Conference, which lasted in all for three days, has made a number of recommendations for improving our villages and for making them cleaner, healthier and more prosperous. It is proposed to put these recommendations into effect in selected villages in Borivli taluka.

The Second Five Year Plan

Is in the making
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VILLAGE INDUSTRIES : RESEACH AND FACILITIES

(*By* : *DHIRUBHAI M. DESAI*)

Among the various problems that are being discussed in public debates and controversies these days, the problems of revival and development of Khadi and village industries are in the forefront. The Planning Commission has also attached much importance to these problems and Khadi and village industries have been given a place second only to agriculture in the first Five Year Plan. In the second Five Year Plan, the hope is expressed that Khadi and village industries will not only help to solve the difficult problem of unemployment and under-employment, but will also play a prominent part in the production of articles of daily necessaries.

In the present changed conditions, if we want to develop the village industries which were once flourishing in the millions of homes in India, immediate attention should be paid to some special aspects pertaining to them. The Planning Commission has thought over these aspects in detail. It says :

"While it is essential that village industries should receive the maximum support in terms of State Policy and specific assistance from the Government, these measures cannot have more than short-term value unless the techniques of cottage production improve repidly. The utmost importance must, therefore, be attached to arrangements for research and training in village industries."

The Beginnings

The Planning Commission has suggested that the necessary information regarding the technical knowledge of, and research in, improved implements and processes should be made available to the village artisans. Before we go into the details of the progress achieved in this direction, it will be useful to obtain a full perspective of the background of this problem in order to have an idea of how great this task is. Efforts for the revival of hand-spinning and other cottage industries have been started only a few years ago. It was Mahatma Gandhi who first of all emphasised this point and included the development of village industries in his programme of constructive work. Consequently, this programme became the basis of the movement for national re-awakening. But those were difficult times. Attention of the entire nation was

mainly fixed on the achievement of national independene. Moreover, the then foreign government looked with suspicion at the efforts for reviving the ancient industries and handicrafts of this country. Many obstacles, therefore, came in the way of carrying out the work of research and training. Whatever work could be achieved, was done through institutions like the All India Spinners' Association established in 1925, All India Village Industries Association established in 1935 and also Khadi Pratisthan started at Sodepur in West Bengal.

Experiments

There were very few institutes and laboratories for industrial research in the country. Most of such institutes, then existing, were concerned with the problems of the organised large-scale industries. They hardly took up the work of research relating to village industries. The above stated constructive associations had, therefore, to work under certain limitations. Moreover the workers engaged in that work did so, being inspired by certain social ideals and most of them lacked technical experience. However, they continued their efforts and some improvements were made in the old spinning-wheel, and models of Charkhas which were easy to operate came into existence. Of these Charkhas, four-spindled Charkha, a Treadle-Charkha, Magan Charkha winding the yarn automatically, Kisan Charkha, Bamboo Charkha and Yeravada Charkha are worth mentioning.

Mahatma Gandhi himself was eager to see that a Charkha which is simple in working, easy of production and cheap in price, is invented. A cash prize of a lakh of rupees for this invention was announced. This inspired many persons interested in this matter and inventive work got a fillip. Consequently, some new models came into existence. As a result of improvements made in the ginning and carding of cotton, Dhunai Modhia took the place of the Dhanushya Pinjan (carding bow); and hand-gin replaced the plank and rod for ginning the cotton.

In addition to these, researches were conducted in oil ghani, hand-made paper and pottery industries at Magan Wadi and in the leather industry at Nal Wadi. As a result thereof came into existence the Magan Wadi (Wardha) Ghani (which has been recognised as an useful model by the Central Oil Seeds Commitee), high-grade hand-made papers (which have been found of the same high quality as the foreign papers, by the Rurkee Institute), Smokeless Chula etc. As a result of the experiments carried out relating to the leather industry, improved processes of tanning have been evolved and serious thought is being given to the matter of full recovery of the carcass and making various articles from the leather and other components obtained therefrom. All these experiments and researches were made by some devoted constructive workers.

Naturally, they were of a sporadic type and made on a small scale.

The Khadi Board

Since the achievement of Swaraj, the necessity of planning for national development was recognised, and systematic thought began to be given to the problems of village industries. With the object of formulating programmes for the development of Khadi and Village Industries, and for carrying on research in connection with the invention of improved implements and evolution of improved processes as well as for providing training facilities to the artisans and workers, the All India Khadi and Village industries Board has been constituted.

The following industries have been placed within the purview of the Board:-

(1) Khadi
(2) Oil Ghani
(3) Bee-keeping
(4) Non-edible oils : Soap-Making
(5) Hand-pounding of Rice
(6) Cottage Match
(7) Gur & Khandsari
(8) Atta Chakki
(9) Village Pottery
(10) Village Leather Industry
(11) Hand-made Paper
(12) Palm-gur.

A Survey

After its constitution, the Board appointed two Committees viz. (1) Technical Research Institute Committee and (2) Training Survey Committee for finding out facilities for research and training in village industries obtaining in the country. Both these Committees made a survey and collected valuable information. As a result of their inquiries, it was found that there did not exist in the country sufficient facilities for the due consideration of and research in the problems relating to the implements and processes of village industries. After taking into consideration the special aspects of research in village industries, the Committee naturally came to the conclusion that there was a necessity of starting a laboratory, which would be quite different from the National Laboratories. In view of this recommendation, the Board drew up a scheme for starting a National Research Institute at Wardha for carrying on research work in village industries, and implementation of this scheme is in progress now. In addition to these schemes of research and training, the All India Khadi and Village Industries Board gives grants, loans, subsidies and various other financial aids for the purchase of equipments and raw material and storage of necessary materials, for the development of each one of these Village Industries.

The Charkha

It will be apt to mention here something about the progress made in the development-scheme of spinning and the allied processes. The latest investion is the Ambar Charkha. The original model of this Charkha was invented by Shri Ekambernath of Papankulam

Village in Tirunelvelli District. After making some alterations and improvements in it, the All India Khadi and Village Industries Board has placed before the country the present improved model. Experiments are still going on for making improvements on this model also. There are four spindles in the present Ambar Charkha and it is made of about one hundred small parts. It is so devised that the spinners can easily ply it and yarn of the desired counts can be spun on it. As a result of the invention of Amber Charkha, necessary changes have been made in the processes of carding and making slivers. Dhunai Modhia for carding of cotton and Belni for making of slivers have come into existence. These implements are hand operated. Experiments for the technological improvement of these implements and processes, are being carried on in the various centres started by the Board. About 700 workers have been given training in the manufacture of Ambar Charkha and also in its use.

Match and Soap

In addition to all this, important researches have been carried out in the village industries like Cottage Match. Non-edible Oil and Soap-making, Palm-gur, Pottery etc. As a result of experiments carried on at Khadi Pratisthan, Sodepur it has been possible to utilise old newspapers for making match-boxes and bamboo for splints in place of wood. Good improvements have been made in the chemical compositions applied at the tip of the match-stick and on both the sides of the box. These cottage matches can very well stand in competition with the best quality matches now sold in the market. Rice pounded with the help of improved wooden Dhenki of Assam, Chakki and winnowing fans, have been found better and the proportion of broken rice is lessened. Dehusking has been made easier.

Researches are being carried on in connection with village pottery at Khanapur, Soap-making with Non-edible Oils at Kora Gramodyog Kendra, Borivli and Ekhatpur and Neera and Palmgur at Palm Gur Shilpa Bhavan, Dahanu. It has been also possible to de-odorise the neem-oil with the help of sun rays, Various types of sweets, toffees and chocolates can now be made from the Palm-gur. Tapping of Neera has now bacome easier and less tiresome. With this object in view, experiments for reducing the height of date palm trees have also been started.

Vidayalayas

Schemes for starting Vidyalayas to impart training in Khadi and Village Industries have also been prepared and several Vidyalayas have already been started at Nasik, Ahmedabad, Rajkot, Shivdaspura (Rajasthan), Machala (Madhya Bharat), Sewapuri (Uttar Pradesh), Samalkha (Punjab). T. Kallupatti (Madras,) Madhubani (Bihar) etc. In all these Vidyalayas, training is

imparted to the Khadi workers of the Board, in additon to which, the work of training the Block Level Extension Officers of the Community Project Administration of the Government of India, is being carried on at Nasik, Ahmedabad and T. Kallupatti. Over and above this, training centres have been started for giving special training in each of the Village Industries.

In this manner, due to the efforts of the Board, the work of research for developing these industries and their training, is gradually progressing in an organised manner. It is hoped that with the opening of the Technical Research Institute at Magan Wadi, Wardha, there will be rapid progress in making new implements for village industries, easier and more beneficial by the help of up-to-date technology. To achieve complete success in this direction, it is essential to make necessary changes for the re-orientation of the engineering and technical education in our country.

If this is achieved, new avenues for the employment of the educated of our country will open out and there will also be a good rise in the production of the utility articles. This sphere is so vast and the number of village industries is also so big, that it will provide the hitherto missing opportunity to the numerous educated youths of our country to harness their knowledge and ability for the progress of the nation.

In addition to the technical research for the development of village industries the Board has, after due consideration, launched a scheme of a special type of research work. It is the Intensive Area Scheme. By means of this scheme, the Board aims at materialising Shri Vinobaji's ideal of Gram-Parivar (the whole village to be as one family) and Mahatma Gandhiji's ideal of Sarvodaya Samaj, by organising the barter system for various utility articles and social work from the view-point of the village economy, so that every individual gets the external benefit of more production and internal benefit of the development of his individuality. It is my prayer to God that the good wishes and co-operation of all our countrymen may be available in this good work.

—Courtesy **A. I. R. Bombay.**

EAT MORE AND MORE

HONEY

★

EXTRACTED THE MODERN WAY

★

HONEY BUILDS BODY AND BEAUTY

and

KILLS FATIGUE

The 'Pattu' Of Kashmir

(By : P. V. KANETKAR)

With the financial aid and encouragement from the Government, Khadi work in the State of Kashmir is progressing satisfactorily. Compared to the past few years, the demand for woollen cloth is increasing and every effort is being made to step up its production.

Special mention may be made of "Pattu." It is a special type of product. If we look at its history, we come to know that "Pattu" was devised for self-sufficiency and was not a product for sale. In the villages of Kashmir valley, people have been rearing sheep and preparing woollen clothes for their own use by shearing the wool of their flock of sheep. The season for shearing is from September to October, that is, before the cold season sets in. During these months the villagers have no work in the fields. The women do the work of spinning wool and men prepare 'loi' out of it. When this 'loi' becomes old after one or two years of use, it is soaked is soap water and pressed by feet. When dried, it takes a new look and is called 'Pattu'. Pressing of 'loi' by feet is called 'Malida'. Clothes are made of this 'Pattu'. Gradually people came to know of this 'Pattu' and a general demand for it grew and it began to be exported as an article of commerce and trade.

'Pattus' available in Kashmir villages ten years ago were soft and well woven. After the 'Pattus' assumed commercial value, the quality of 'lois' has deteriorated and inferior quality of 'loi' started pouring into the market and 'Pattus' began to be made out of them. Previously 'loi' was prepared out of the good quality of wool after careful selection and spinning. But during the war, 'lois' came to be prepared out of mixed wool. The legacy of the war still continued. 'Pattus' of original colour which are very much in demand are not available in sufficient quantities.

Here we have to take into consideration one thing. Although the softness of Pattu increases with older loi, it becomes feeble and fragile quicker. From the commercial point of view this gives scope for taking undue advantage of the ignorance of the purchasers since old 'loi' can be bought by traders at low prices and converted into 'Pattu' and sold at high prices without the purchasers knowing that it is not the durable stuff.

'Pattus' were exempted from the certification of the All India Spinners

Association some years ago. This resulted in the deterioration of their quality and standard. As 'Pattus' could be purchased from anywhers and everywere, the traders started manufacturing 'pattus' of questionable quality. The position was reviewed after the All India Khadi and Village Industries Board took over the development of the industry and its Certification Committee decided that 'Pattus' should be purchased only from certified centres. This will go a long way in improving the quality of 'Pattus'. I would make the following suggestions with regard to stepping up the production of 'Pattus'

1. 'Pattus' should not be included in Government orders since the uniform have to be made out of uniform quality.

2. Since it is not only difficult, but almost impossible, to obtain 'Pattus' in large quantity, increasing use of *tweed* should be planned in place of 'Pattus'.

3. In place of 'Pattus' the use of thick cloth which resembles Pattu and made of wool should be encouraged. It is being planned to manufacture this type of cloth soon. Though rugh, this type of cloth can be made very strong.

4. Instead of original colour, 'Pattus' dyed in colours resembling original colours should be sold.

5. 'Pattus' should only be purchased from certified institutions.

These suggestions, if implemented, will go a long way in improving the quality of 'Pattus' and creating conditions for the development of the industry on right lines.

Beware of

The Rice You Eat !

Ask for

Handpounded Rice

which

Build Your Body

And

Feeds Millions In Villages

KHADI GRAMODYOG BHAVAN: A GLIMPSE

(By *SHRI DIGAMBAR JHA*)

The other day, when I learnt that the inauguration of the Khadi-Gramodyog Bhavan of Bihar State was going to be held in Patna, I wondered what a State Government has to do with Khadi or village industries. When big industries are being planned on a huge scale, such piece of news is bound to appear odd. Curiosity prompted me to go and see the opening ceremony.

My eyes fell on a huge illuminated structure in front of the Gandhi maidan and I was wonderstruck at its beauty and grandeur. The main door of the Bhavan was decorated with bamboo trees, 'deodar' leaves. The Bhavan's front was given the shape of a hut. 'Mangal Kalash' or the pitchers of good omen placed in front of the hut and the earthen lamps placed on the two sides of the main door, gave the show the real rural touch.

Long before the opening ceremony, a sea of humanity was wending its way towards the 'Khadi Gramodyog Bhavan.' The Chief Minister of Bihar came for the inaugural ceremony. As soon as he put on the switches, the hall beamed with light. The crowd waiting outside could not restrain itself and in the twinkling of an eye it surged into the Bhavan like water coming in through a flood-gate.

On entering the main hall I was simply amazed at the splendour and beauty that I saw around me. Looking to the variety of articles collected for display and sale in the Bhavan, the feeling came to me that it is a treasure-house of arts and crafts and things of rare beauty and value.

Big shelfs fitted with glass adorned the four walls of the Bhavan hall. The predominence of glass in the interior decoration reminded one of the mythical glass-house built by the Pandavas. The interior decoration with a high taste for beauty was praiseworthy and it called for tributes to those artists and decorators who made the entire atmosphere artistic and lively.

The disply in the Bhavan was also as attractive. The variety of articles was pleasing and revealing. The exhibits reflected the creative genius of the artisans and craftmen.

I was amazed to see the varieties of Khadi and I realized that there is a world of difference between Khadi of

the 1920's and that of to-day. I could visualize a society based on Sarvodaya to be achieved through Khadi and Village Industries. Khadi is the symbol of our simplicity, purity of mind and sincerity of purpose and became the livery of freedom. Now Khadi and Village Industries are again coming up and a new India is taking shape. A glimpse of this new life one could get at the Bhavan. What an array of goods there were in the Bhavan! There ware the Bangalore silk, Mysore sandal wood and ivory work, Khadi from Tirupur, Andhra muslin and sarees, 'Kalamkari' work from Masulipatam, coating and Shirting from U P. Chunar potteries, 'dusuti' and 'Khes', stone toys and idols from Jaipur, Ambala carpets, articles made from wood at Saharnpur, brass wares of Moradabad, horn articles from Cuttack, 'ahinsak' chappals and shoes from Bombay, hand-made paper from Sanganer, Kashmir honey and 'pashmina' stone work of Pathkatti (Gaya), wooden toys from chhota Nagpur, iron articles of Shalda (Manbhum), stone idols from Seraikela, bronze and brass articles from Chatra (Hazaribangh), shell buttons from.Mahsi (Champaran), pitchers and pots made of 'Mayurpankhi' clay from Seewan (Chhapra).

I was overwhelmed at this effort of the Bihar Government which has built this Bhavan at the total cost of four lakhs of rupees and has sanctioned a capital of five lakhs for running it. It is a great step taken by the Government and it will ever be remembered. A remarkable thing with this Bhavan is that majority of articles sold here are mainly for the middle class people, though some costly articles too have been stocked. This Bhavan has opened out a new avenue to market village products and thus a source of employment and livelihood for those unknown folk who, with their simple implements, have been carrying on their traditional crafts.

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during the last two or three years.

While the Karve Committee recognised that village and small-scale industries were vital parts of the national economy and gave them a national character, it has not adequately recognized that the national programme requires to be implemented by agencies capable of working out programmes on a national scale. The experience of the All India Khadi and Village Industries Board has shown that with adequate executive powers it can effectively co-ordinate the activities in the field and function more effectively in carrying out development programme on a wide scale in the country. This is being strenghthened by the response that the Board has evoked in the Community Project Areas. Its representative on the Action Committee appointed by the Community Projects Administration, Shri R. Srinivasan, has recently completed a tour of number of the Community Pilot Project Areas and has had occasion to confer with Development Officers and field staff of the Project Administration, as well as with Ministers and other officers of the State Government concerned. Everywhere there is great enthusiasm and the Board's programmes are welcomed. What, however acted as a handicap is the lack of adequate authority for the Board to enter into firm commitments and thus function as an efficient executing and co-ordinating agency. With the constitution of the Statutory Commission, the Board will have greater freedom of initiative and leadership, and thus bring into play its specialised knowledge and experience in the integrated development of rural economy. The Board, therefore, urged the Government of India to take active steps to usher in the Khadi and Village Industries Commission by piloting the Bill during the current session of Parliament.

Arrangements of marketing facilities for village products and crafts have formed an important part of developmental programmes of the All India Khadi and Village Industries Board, as of the Handicrafts and other like Boards. The main difficulty of the artisans and craftsmen is the inaccessibility of new markets for their products. Resourceless as they are, they are not able to launch on urban enterprises for the display and sale of their products, some of which have attained interational reputation, while others are attracting new customers in the cities. The method that has been found to be not only useful, but profitable is the organization of a net-work of emporia in the important cities and larger towns of the country. In the same way as the Government has evinced direct interest in export promotion schemes and export security schemes relating to large-scale industries, it should make similar arrangements for promoting and developing marketing facilities for village products, arts and crafts. This the Central and State Governments can provide by making available land and buildings free of rent to house emporia

where these products can be advantageously displayed and thus attract wider public attention and demand. The expenditure involved should appropriately come under developmental expenditure. These should not be treated as commercial enterprises. To do so will be to take away what is given by one hand with the other. These views were expressed during the discussions at the meeting of the Board which decided to recommend to the State Governments and to the Government of India to provide such facilities in order that a new work of emporia could be organised in the country.

Thus, as we enter in the period of the Second Five Year Plan, specialized bodies like the All India Khadi and Village Industries Board, the Handloom Board and the Handicrafts Board are directing their thought towards programmes of coordination and coordinated activities. Each of these Boards have' through their individual activities, gained considerable knowledge and field experience about the problems and the condition of Village industries and crafts. As this knowledge and experience have grown, in like proportion has the desire for working in coordination also grown. This is an encouraging situation well for rural developmental programmes at the start of the Second Plan.

Read.....

PLANNING FOR

FULL EMPLOYMENT

A COMPREHENSIVE SURVEY OF

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NEWS AND NOTES

SAURASHTRA KHADI VIDYALAYA

Shri Rasiklal U. Parikh, Chief Minister of Saurashtra laid the foundation stone of Regional Khadi Vidyalaya of the Saurashtra Khadi and Village Industries Board, at Tramba, a village ten miles away from Rajkot, on the 16th February. Tramba is the place where Kasturba was kept under detention during the historic Rajkot Satyagrah in 1939. The State Government acquired the land and the building in which she was lodged with the help of the Kasturba Trust. The Trust had already decided to start a memorial at that place and carry on the constructive activities which were so dear to both Gandhiji and Kasturba. This place is situated on $11\frac{1}{2}$ acres of land on the bank of a river.

Under the auspices of the Saurashtra Khadi and Village Industries Board and the Rashtriya Shala, a Khadi-Gramodyog Vidyalaya was being run in Rajkot. It was decided to shift this Vidyalaya to rural surroundings and Tramba was selected.

Shri Purushottambhai Gandhi announced that this place would henceforward be known as "Kasturba-Wadi", and added that the constructive activities centre would be known as "Sarvodaya Niketan." He said that the centre would be run by Shri Kanubhai Gandhi. Every year about 40 persons would be trained in Khadi and Gramodyog at this centre, besides undertaking various constructive activities for the benefit of the surrounding villages.

ALL INDIA POTTERS' CONFERENCE

All India Potters' Conference, presided over by the 90 year old potter, Shri Shrikrishna Vani from Bhandak, was held at Sevagram from 22nd to 24th December, 1955. After attaining independence our National Government has launched many schemes for the prosperity of villages and to regenerate our ancient cottage crafts and village industries. Much work is being done now in this direction by the All India Khadi and Village Industries and like Boards. Pottery occupies a special place among village industries.

Inaugurating the Conference Sant Tukdoji Maharaj, said that it was a matter of great satisfaction that the Government is making concerted efforts for the progress of the potters. Those who worked with their hands deserved

a better deal. Our ancient art of pottery had a cultural aspect and earthen pots had been of great significance in our religious rites since ancient times. Shri Tukdoji Maharaj cited the example of Japan which he had visited some time back and said that much work was being done there for the development of cottage industries. He declared : "We have to work a great deal and put forth more effort for the advancement of our ancestral village industries."

An attractive exhibition of earthen pots was also organised along with the Conference. It contained pottery from different parts of the country. It was inaugurated by Shri Dindayal Gupta, Minister for Social Welfare, M. P. Government. The exhibition contained Magan chulha, toys, idols, pitchers, ink holder stands and pipes made of clay. It also exhibited idols of the aborigines of Gujrat made by women.The exhibition attracted villagers of Wardha and nearby areas. They thronged in thousands to see it. Dr. Yudhavir Singh, Minister for Public Health, Delhi State said that if such an exhibition was organised in Delhi, it would create a great deal of interest among the people there and would give them something new to see, admire and learn.

About 130 representatives attended the Conference which appointed a committee to draft resolutions and formulate schemes. Resolutions passed by the Conference appealed to manufacturers of alluminium pots not to produce utensils for cooking and thus save the potters from extinction, requested the schools, colleges, public institutions, Government and private offices to make use of articles made by potters as far as possible and appealed to the people to patronize the ancient art of pottery and use such articles for cooking, home-decoration, religious and social functions, festivals and give toys made by village potters to their children.

For the all-round progress of the potters the followtng suggestions were made :

1. Every potter's family should be provided with adequate land for agriculture and horticulture to solve the problem of food.

2. Arrangements must be made to train the potters in spinning and weaving to make them self-sufficient in cloth.

3. Facilities for obtaining raw materials should be provided.

4. Training courses should be organised for imparting training in pottery to develop its technical as well as artistic aspects.

In the Conference a competition in pottery-work was organised and the winners were awarded prizes.

Shri Aryanayakam, Shrimati Asha Devi, Shri Krishnamurti, Mir-Mira, Shri K. R. Subbaraman and many others helped in making the Conference a success.

KHADI & VILLAGE INDUSTRIES EXHIBITION AT JALGAON

Under the auspices of Bombay Village Industries Board, a Khadi and Village Industries Exhibition will be held on the play-ground of Government G. S. (Agri.) High School, Jalgaon. The exhibition will be declared open by Dr. Harekrushna Mehtab, the Governor of Bombay, on Friday, the 30th March, 1956 at 5-00 P. M. It will last for 10 days. It will remain open to the public from 4-00 to 10-00 P.M. on week days and in the mornings on Sundays and holidays

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BOOK-REVIEWS

STHANIK SWARAJYA: A Quarterly Hindi Journal of the All India Institute of Local Self-Government Bombay; Editor: Shri Chunilal D. Barfivala.

This magazine is serving a useful purpose in the field of Local Self Government and the Panchayat System in India. The December, (1955) issue of of the journal contains an informative article on the experiment in Local Self Government in Yugoslavia. Another article on municipal finances in Ceylon provides an interesting compartive study. Further, two essays—"The development of Panchayats in Ancient India" and "Renovation of Indian Life"—speak of the fully developed Panchayat system in the country, which formed the fabric of its ancient culture. The magazine also gives in a brief survey, the history of the Delhi Municipality and the work done by it. Life-sketches of a few Ministers for Local-Self Government of some States are also included in the issue.

LITERACY CAMPAIGN: Bombay City Social Education Committee's 16th Annual Roport:

The booklet is a record of the work done by the Committee for the year ending 31st March, 1955. It points out that according to the 1951 census the percentage of literacy in India is 16.6 only, that for Bombay State, 24.6. and for Bombay city, only 49.33. Out of the total population of 28 lakhs in Greater Bombay total number of illiterate persons is more than 7 lakhs. It is to educate these illiterate men and women that the Committee has been ceaselessly working. During the year under report the Committee conducted 1,641 literacy centres and 508 post literacy centres. The total number of adults who got the benefit of Social Education in Greater Bombay during the year was 66,504.

Out of 41,836 adults enrolled in the 1,641 literacy classes conducted by the Committee, 31,514 were men and 10,322 women. Of these 29,876 adults, (23,600 men and 6,276 women), appeared for the literary test and 25,239 adults (19,979 men and 5,260 women) were successful. Besides the classes run by the Committee, 6,944 adults were enrolled in other classes. Out of these 4,156 appeared for the literacy test and 3,224 passed. This brings the total number of adults made literate during the year to 28,463. Out of 14,291 adults on roll in 508 post literacy classes, 9,150 appeared in the test and 7,656 passed.

Some classes are also conducted in textile mills and factories under the supervision and guidance of the Committee. These literacy classes numbering 202, taught 5,196 persons whom 3,013 appeared and 2,349 passed the test. From 105 post literacy classes 1,443 adults appeared for the test and 1,206 passed. During the year the Social Education Committee conducted 427 Social Education Centres specially for 10,322 women, and 5,260 passed the test. The Committee also conducts centres mainly for the benefit of labourers and factory workers and makes special efforts to spread literacy among Harijans. Altogether 16,776 adults from the scheduled and Backward class ware enrolled in the Committee's classes of whom 10,066 were successful. Over 30 per cent of the adults getting the benefit are Harijans.

The UNESCO has been taking keen interest in the Committee's work and since 1950 it has been recognized as one and its three Associated Projects in India.

Fourth Social Education Week Souvenir: This booklet is a record of the various activities of the Bombay City Social Education Committee during the 4th Social Education Week from 23rd to 29th November, 1952. It was inaugurated by Dr. S. Radhakrishan, Vice President of India Shri. S.K. Patil, Chairman of the Social Education Week Committee, speaking at the inauguration revealed that during the past 14 years the Committee had given the benefit of education to nearly 5¼ lakhs of adults in the city, of whom over a lakh were women. During the last 13 years the Committee spent Rs. 21½ lakhs on the movement. Of this sum the Government contributed 12½ lakhs, the Minicipal Corporation gave Rs. 3½ lakhs, and Rs. 5½ lakhs were donated by the citizens of Bombay. The per capita cost for making an adult literate was Rs. 8-14-0 in 1951-52. The social Education Week was packed with programmes and activities. One of the principal objects of celebration of the week was to collect funds to meet the annual deficit incurred by the Committee. The total collection through collection boxes and sale of one anna coupons amounted to Rs. 54,285.

BHARAT SEVAK SAMAJ-GUJARAT

The report of activities of the Bharat Sevak Samaj-Gujarat for two and a half years, from 1953 to 1955, is published. This branch of the All India Bharat Sevak Samaj in Gujarat was opened in April, 1953. About 700 persons have been enrolled as members of the Samaj. During the period under report, the Samaj has been engaged in various activities for the economic, moral and social uplift of the people.

It has also started four cooperative societies out of which two are for the development of oil-ghani industry, one for hand-pounding of rice industry and one for masons and labourers.

For the propagation of Swadeshi, the Samaj has obtained about 3,000 pledges for using only Swadeshi and Village Industries goods. It also organised a prize-essay competitions on Swadeshi in eight middle schools.

One of the important activities of the Samaj was organisation of 'shrama shibirs' or labour camps. Twelve such camps were organised during the period and various works for the benefit of the public were carried out in different villages. These consisted in deepening of the tanks, construction of roads, leveling of the pits etc.

The Samaj has published a book in Gujarati called "Small Scale Industries". Its price is fixed at Re. 1/- only, though it contains 250 pages, giving information about forty small industries.

Encouraged by the good work done during the period, the Samaj has chalked out an elaborate programme for the next year.

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2. Contributions and letters intended for publication in this Journal must be brief, must deal exclusively with any one particular aspect of the programmes for development at a time and must bear the name and address of the writer. They must be typed on one side of the paper and must be accompanied by a self-addressed stamped envelope if their return is desired. All communications must be addressed to the Editor, "Khadi-Gramodyog", Post Box No. 482, Bombay, and not to any person by name.

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SERVICE OF THE VILLAGE

"I believe that the people of the villages are the servants of God and that the work in the field is truest worship. People in the cities have to become the servants of God. That is to say, they should offer themselves to the service of the village. But, on the other hand, we see the urban people conducting a regular raid upon village industries by starting rice and flour mills and the like. What is needed to-day is a system by which raw materials of the village are turned into finished products in the village itself, and the imports of foreign goods in the city are stopped forth-with. Therefore, the city people should learn to manufacture such articles like watches, loud speaker instruments, eye-glasses. etc. Otherwise, the village people will lose their industries and, for want of occupation, march into the cities for employment, and foreign goods will continue to be dumped into our cities. I clearly visualise the terrible plight of the urban population ground down by the continued attack upon them by the unemployed village folk and and the foreign domination through unchecked imports. Therefore, we must seriously consider this problem and devise plans of co-operation between the city and the village. The village should establish such industries by which its raw materials are turned into finished goods. The city should produce only those goods which are being imported to-day from foreign countries."

— ACHARYA VINOBA BHAVE

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